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Hafa Adai!

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Officials grapple with CW crisis

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Crisis weighs on proceeding 902 talks

The Commonwealth starts with unsure footing at an unprecedented time with a foreign labor pool that has breached its federally mandated cap.

Pressing concern from business and government leaders grow on what this means to longtime businesses and families affected by this limit on contract worker permit renewals, after the federal government announced on Saturday it had

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Jucutan weeps, denies stealing personal information

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Former U.S. Army Reserves member Jordan M. Jucutan prepares to board a vehicle after the trial in federal court on Saturday afternoon. Jucutan took the witness stand yesterday and denied stealing personal information from 18 potential soldiers.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former U.S. Army Reserve member Jordan M. Jucutan yesterday took the witness stand in federal court and burst into tears as he denied stealing personal information from 18 potential soldiers to obtain money.

Jucutan testified that the confession statement that he wrote before U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Special Agent Elizabeth H. Smith on March 31, 2015 was false.

"I was scared. Lost. I wanted to

See JUCUTAN on Page 4

PINNING AND PATH OF LIGHT CEREMONY

From left, Susan De Veyra, Angela Prado, and Nursing Assistant program coordinator Leticia Reyes lead the recitation of the nurse's prayer and pledge in last Saturday's Pinning and Path of Light ceremony of Saipan Southern High School's nursing assistant program at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall. JON PEREZ

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CW situation shocking and concerning for stakeholders

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» Sending home workers 'heartless and ruthless'
» Labor secretary hopeful remedy will be given to those caught in the cap

The recent announcement of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reaching its 2016 fiscal year cap for the CNMI-only transitional worker program and its rule to send home those who have rejected extension petitions and their families have sent shockwaves across the CNMI, especially for stakeholders and CW status holders.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands said they were "extremely shocked" when the news came out.

"As an association that represents the driving force of our economy, we plead with our U.S. congressman and our administration to negotiate a solution for this immediate crisis. Although we support growth, that is, controlled growth, in the CNMI, we cannot close the doors of the existing businesses," HANMI's official statement said.

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INSIDE

LOCAL
The CNMI Judiciary held a retirement ceremony for David A. Wiseman who last week retired as Superior Court associate judge after serving 15 years on the bench.

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LOCAL
The University of Guam celebrated the accomplishments of 319 graduates during Spring 2016 Commencement at the UOG Calvo Field House last Sunday.

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LIFE & STYLE
Veteran actress Jaclyn Jose has become the first Filipino to win the best actress award at the Cannes Film Festival for her performance in "Ma' Rosa."

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Local

IN NMC KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Eliptico speaks of triumph, endurance

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
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CORRESPONDENT

In a moving keynote address, Frankie M. Eliptico, Northern Marianas College External Relations director, urged the graduates of NMC's largest class to look among their peers for inspiration during the commencement exercise at Koberlville gymnasium last Saturday.

Shifting attention to the students, Eliptico told the story of Angel Ray Guerrero, one of the graduates who is a cancer survivor. Guerrero, he said, was medically referred to Honolulu where he subsequently spent a year and a half undergoing six surgeries, including a major operation on his brain to remove a tumor the size of golf ball.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
In a moving keynote address, Frankie Eliptico, Northern Marianas College's director of external relations, urged the graduates of college's largest class to look among their peers for inspiration during the commencement exercise at Koberlville gymnasium last Saturday.

"Fighting with every ounce of courage and strength he could muster, Angel endured 32 days of aggressive radiation and more than a year of chemotherapy," he added. "He is the brave cancer survivor who beat all the odds and is here, standing proud with the Class of 2016 and who is now ready to receive his college degree!"

Eliptico also spoke of another graduate, Malyssa Castro. Castro, he explained, endured over nine years of domestic violence and has shared her message as an advocate for victims.

"After enduring so much hurt, she was able to manage and gather the strength and courage to pick up her three children—a 3-year-old and twins who were only nine months old—and leave an abusive relationship once and for all," Eliptico explained. "She said that during this difficult period, NMC was her refuge, that it was one of the few things that was stable in her life."

"Today, Malyssa proudly marched down that graduation aisle to claim the degree she has worked so hard for!"

The class, he added, should also be proud of graduate Jasyleen Arriola.Arriola discovered she had a tumor in her leg that broke down the bones near her knee. Her doctors said she would never be able to walk again.

The audience roared in applause as Arriola stood up after being recognized by the keynote speaker.

"Each one of you has a compelling story to tell," he added.

He said that the students conducted themselves well, despite having to do homework in the dark and using public Wi-Fi at local businesses for months.

He also noted that all of the graduates survived the wrath of Typhoon Soudelor. He said, "You are the class that not only lived through a super typhoon that was later categorized as the most powerful storm on earth, but You also lived through months of darkness as you waited to have your power turned back on."

Eliptico explains that he initially declined the offer to be the keynote speaker, but decided to take on the role after his sister passed away a month ago.

"[It] still haunts me today, is I never really said goodbye," he said. "And I mention this not to bring your spirit down on this festive occasion, but to share with you what I learned from her death."

Eliptico recounted his sister's enduring spirit, even in times of illness, she remained his biggest fan. He said he does not know if his sister new how much of a hero she was to him.

"I never got to tell her that. I never got to tell her that that every single day of my life I strived to be half the person she is," he added.

He urged the graduates to genuinely express their love to their family members in person, not just on social media, and have real meaningful conversations with others.

Eliptico called on the graduates to return to the island after pursuing new experiences and furthering their education elsewhere, especially during a time that he said industries are growing, resources are being strained, and the pressure to produce a stable workforce is rising.

He added, "You represent the hope and the spirit of the Marianas, and looking out at all of you today, I am confident that the future of our Commonwealth is in mighty good hands."

Hard Rock's Mendoza tops Bartenders' competition

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café Saipan's Jeffric Mendoza topped the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association's Bartenders' Cocktail Competition at the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

Mendoza won the title under the Battle of the Champions division for his "Isla Fresco" drink, which mixes Absolut Exposure with fresh lemon juice and cucumber-flavored syrup.

Mendoza, who was last year's champion of the Rookie division, won this year's title with his flashy moves. His flair bartending amazed the judges and the crowd as he balanced bottles on his elbows, palms, and even forehead and successfully juggled up to four bottles at one point.

A cash prize of $250, a gift prize, a trophy, and a mobile phone was awarded to Mendoza.

» Panaligan wins Rookie category

Another representative from Hard Rock, Joseph Solmarin, placed first runner-up, while Ed Flores of Club C placed second runner-up.

For the Battle of the Rookie division, Mariel Ann Panaligan of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. took home the championship along with all the special awards including Best in Showmanship, Best in Taste, and Best in Props and Costume for her "Island Desire" cocktail.

Panaligan is under the tutelage of Ronnie Guevara who

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Jeffric Mendoza of Hard Rock Café and Mariel Ann Panaligan of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. took home the championship titles for the Battle of the Champions and Battle of the Rookie divisions, respectively, of the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association's Bartenders' Cocktail Competition at the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

Omar, 27 others complete nursing assistant program

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Fariha Omar led 27 of her classmates in Cohort 6 in completing the close to two-year training under Saipan Southern High School's nursing assistant program. The pinning and path of light ceremony was held last Saturday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Omar, who will also be part of SSHS' graduating class of 2016 on June 1, was the top performer of Cohort 6. Marchie Fernandez and Hannah Hofschneider were tied as second best.

Shirin S. Aktar, Omar's mother, said she wasn't expecting her daughter to win the award and was surprised she wound up as the class top-notcher.

"All of her studies and hard work finally paid off. We are really surprised to learn that she was the one who is going to receive the award. We're proud of her achievement," said Aktar, who is originally from Bangladesh.

"It is up to her if she wants to continue to take nursing in college or another course. We're just going to support her decision," added Aktar, whose other daughter, Noshin, is in Cohort 7.

SSHS principal Martha Kintol congratulated the Cohort 6 members, who will also be graduating next week. "Whatever your future goals just continue moving forward. Congratulations to all of you and I wish you nothing but the best in all of your future plans."

She added that if most of them are planning to take nursing in college, they should come back and share what they've learned. "This is only my second year as [SSHS] principal but I want you to come back here and take care of me and your parents."

Losana Rogoyawa, whose daughter Serafina was also part of Cohort 6, was the keynote speaker. She encouraged all students to strive for the better whatever path they take in life until they reach their goals.

"Some of you may continue on as a nurse and some of you may partake a different path. But wherever you go, whatever you want to become, you must decide to transform your environment into the paradise you want to lie in," said Rogoyawa.

"You all have many years ahead of you, you cannot do it alone. Work together. Do not let you weaknesses pull you down, we are only complete when we work together," added the registered midwife at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Five students were also given the Pillar of Excellence awards. Annika Matias and Hui Lun Yu were the recipients in Communication; Ji Sun Li for Holistic Care; Martin Kapileo for Leadership; and Rhea Banados for Professionalism.

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CRISIS

From Page 1

reached its cap of contract worker permit applicants for this fiscal year.

To address what they call a "crisis," private and public sector leaders met and are forwarding their concerns to the federal government through Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). Torres and Sablan met with private sector leaders like Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, DFS president Marian Aldan Pierce, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Gloria Cavanagh, and other heads of the local human resources organization, among other business leaders, yesterday to hear their concerns.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Saturday had announced it had reached its 12,999 cap on number of contract worker permit applications, and it would reject applications received after a close-off May 5 date, including those for extensions of stay for current contract workers.

The major concern appears to be with procedure.

USCIS said Saturday that if an extension petition is rejected, then the beneficiaries listed on that petition are not permitted to work beyond the previous permit, and that the affected and petitioned family members, must depart the CNMI within 10 days after the their permit expired, with no hint of extension or grace period offered.

But how will USCIS manage a renewal process for a program that has never reached its cap? What, if any, are its guidelines on what permits it will prioritize first? What happens to the families of those affected? among many others, are questions that officials have asked.

"As this is the first time the CW cap has ever actually been reached since the federal takeover of our immigration, we are seeking clarification on a number of issues from USCIS so that businesses in the CNMI can obtain a clear understanding of our current labor environment," said the Torres administration in a statement yesterday. "We will continue to work to assess the overall economic impact of this current limitation on foreign workers."

"We believe it's a crisis," said Tan Holdings vice president Alex Sablan yesterday, one of the several private sector officials who convened at the Office of the Governor yesterday to air their concerns with the delegate's and governor's office.

"We believe that the recent decision by USCIS to issue a notice that requires individual under renewal"—to leave the CNMI if their extension petition is rejected or renewal is denied "because the quota has been met"—"is a crisis in its own right because we are going to be uprooting longtime employees, families, people have no ability to renew because we've got new permits in the pipeline and they could possibly fill their gap," he said.

Alex Sablan also wants to know if USCIS is going to be able to manage a renewal process for existing workers that have been here "for years on end and how is that going to be managed under a system that now has met its quota."

"The quota's never been met so they have been able to manage this in-and-out process without any regard to the FIFO [fly-in fly out policy]. As it plays out, it looks like it's going to be a first in, first out, we don't know. So we are asking."

Delegate Sablan, for his part, expressed dismay over the breach of cap, and pointed to another visa class option available to new project developers.

"For months I have been saying that the new developers should use H2B visas for construction workers. The governor and some business leaders have been saying the same. Yet here we are. We have reached capacity in the CW program barely eight months into the fiscal year. That the Northern Marianas has reached the CW cap should come as no surprise to no one. Perhaps the surprise for some is that it came so soon," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CW

From Page 1

"We are currently surveying the immediate effect this crisis will have on our members," it added.

According to HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, it is "very possible" that the CNMI will once again experience closures or limited hours of businesses due to worker shortage, similar to what the Commonwealth experienced earlier this year.

"I have just spoken to a large tour company and they had expressed the possibility of closure by this summer," Cavanagh said.

HANMI said that "for every one employee in our industry, it affects 1.72 employees of supporting businesses."

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios said that the situation is "very concerning" and like HANMI, they will also be conducting surveys on how many of employees of their members could possibly be affected.

Palacios added that they also coursed questions from their members regarding the situation through the Office of the Governor. Among those that they want to clarify is the 10-day limit for workers with rejected extension petitions to stay on the island as well as how the 240-day grace period will affect those with rejected petitions.

'Heartless and ruthless'

Human resource professional Frank Gibson, who wrote his concerns to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), said he was shocked, not at the news that the cap was reached "but by the denial of extensions of existing CW-1s."

"USCIS issued too many new visas if their numbers don't allow the extensions of existing employees. This means that every CW-1 that will expire before 1 October and was not received by 5 May will be required to go home—no matter the job, the length or residence in the CNMI, the length of service to the employer, the presence of U.S. children, or whether the position can be filled locally—regardless of the impact on the individual, their family or the employing business," Gibson said in his letter to Sablan.

According to Gibson, he knows of one business that will have to send home seven nurses, three physical therapy technicians, and a physical therapist that are "needed" in the community.

"This is unacceptable. USCIS should never have accepted new visa petitions that would prevent the extension/renewal of current visa holders. This means that the 500 CW-1 visas for Best Sunshine and the 500 CW-1 visas for Honest Profit construction workers are going to replace long-term workers for other companies," Gibson stated.

Gibson said the current situation shows that the worker crisis starts now, "not in 2019."

"If existing visa holders are now exceeding the cap, it means USCIS approved too many new visas, resulting in this 'heartless and ruthless' adverse action. Why was there no protective measure for existing approved visa holders?" Gibson said.

"It also means that, since the cap has been reached, every new petition accepted for an employment start date after 1 October 2017 will result in a current employee with visa renewal date later in the year being denied an extension," he added.

Gibson said that the current situation is "extremely unfair to employers who have done their job in timely extension processing so they can continue their necessary workers."

"If there has to be a denial, it should have been to the employer whose request for new workers put us over the limit. USCIS has records that show numbers of existing CW-1 workers. Their continuation should have had priority," Gibson said.

Gibson said there is a need to change the existing law regarding the CW program.

"This is the continuation of a failed law and regulation. Even though it is obvious that the decrease of alien workers will be disastrous to our community and our economy, we›re forced to continue down that path because it's the law. Someone has to acknowledge this and bring this failed plan to a close before the CNMI economy collapses," he said.

Gibson is also an officer of the Society of Human Resources Management-NMI Chapter, which will be having a membership meeting this Thursday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan to discuss CW issues.

Remedy

CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero said she is hopeful that a remedy will be given to those who were caught in the cap.

"I am hopeful that some remedy unique to our needs especially for on-going businesses with start work dates within FY 16 time period that may be caught in the cap and have gone through the rigor of labor market testing is considered knowing that FY 16 is still four months away from expiring," Guerrero said.

"The economic effects of a four-month gap are something to be concerned about and any remedy is what we can be hopeful for," she added.

HARD ROCK

From Page 3

won the championship title last year as well as in 2012 and 2013.

She received $150, a gift prize, a trophy, and a mobile phone as the champion and also took home separate trophies, cash prizes, and gifts for the special awards.

Ohren Ohry of Saipan World Resort placed first runner-up, followed by Renz Iglesias of Hyatt Regency Saipan and Sylvia Dones of Grandvio Resort as second and third runners-up, respectively.

"Thank you to all our sponsors as well as the managers and staff who gave their support for the success of this event," association president Lito Espino said.

This year's sponsors are R&J Wines and Spirits, SAMCORP Imports, TITAN's, Marianas Visitors Authority, DFS Galeria, IT&E, Coca-Cola, ARMATECH, Marianas Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grandvrio Resort, Pacific Islands Club, Best Sunshine, and the Northern Marianas Bartender's Association.

JUCUTAN

From Page 1

get out," said Jucutan when his counsel, Pamela Brown Blackburn, asked why he made the false statement.

Smith testified for the U.S. government on Friday that during their interview, Jucutan issued a sworn statement admitting that he stole personal information from 18 potential soldiers.

Jucutan, who is a teacher, is on trial for four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft. He is accused to have engaged in a scheme to defraud and to obtain money by falsely claiming he referred soldiers to enlist in the Army Reserve through the Army Recruiter Assistant Program (AR-RAP).

Jucutan testified yesterday that when Army CID and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents first interviewed him at the FBI's office on March 5, 2015, he was confused and couldn't remember the answers to many questions as it happened five years ago at that time.

Jucutan said the agents only told him that they were fact-finders.

He said the interview was not enjoyable and even a little bit intimidating.

Jucutan said the agents told him that he received $17,000 payment for AR-RAP, but that he could only remember getting $8,000.

Jucutan said he was really confused and scared during that interview because he could not recall the answers to some questions and was just trying to remember anything.

He said he was trying to be honest in answering the questions.

Jucutan said each potential soldier he nominated he asked permission to get their personal information.

Jucutan said during the interviews on March 5 and 31, 2015, he was not told that he was a suspect.

He said he would have hired an attorney if he knew he was a suspect and brought to court.

Jucutan said he went back to FBI's office on March 31, 2015 at 8am or 8:30am as the agents' had instructed him to go to a second interview.

Jucutan said he feels intimidated when he was taken in a small room with special agent Smith.

"I don't know what to expect. I don't know what she can do. I was scared. I was confused," he said.

Jucutan said he just signed and initialed some documents as Smith instructed him to do.

He said he was scared, confused, and wanted to get out because Smith was asking questions over and over.

Showed by Blackburn a copy of his narrative statement he made on March 31, 2015, Jucutan admitted he typed it by himself when Smith left him alone.

Asked by Blackburn why he wrote the word "stole," Jucutan replied that he was not comfortable using the word.

Jucutan then burst into tears.

"I did not steal," said Jucutan, his voice was shivering.

He said Smith repeatedly told him that whatever he did, he was stealing.

"I wanted to get out. I was confused," he said.

Jucutan stressed that he did not steal personal information from the persons he nominated and that he followed AR-RAP rules and procedures.

Jucutan said he nominated a total of 38 potential soldiers.

Jucutan disclosed that he cried during that March 31 interview because he was stressed, lost, and confused with the questions repeatedly asked to him.

"All the questions were asked over and over again. Repeating and repeating. I'm trying to remember. I guess I was overwhelmed," he said.

Jucutan said he was not disputing that he received payments for bonus in the AR-RAP.

Jucutan said he does not know why he is charged and brought to court. At this juncture, he cried again as he continued his testimony and stated he was testifying for the truth.

As to Blackburn's question on his background, the defendant said he has no prior criminal conviction and has no traffic ticket.

Jucutan said he is now testifying for the truth and that he was not speculating.

On cross-examination, assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing asked why was he scared that he could be shot during the interview, Jucutan said the FBI agent had a gun.

Jucutan said he watched it on TV at Foxnews and You Tube about being shot during interviews.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Lorfing was still cross-examining the defendant. The trial will resume today, Tuesday, at 8am.

Man allegedly tries to stab common-law wife with knife

»Also damages her car, punctures house's roof with ax

A man allegedly tried to stab his common-law wife with a hunting knife, damaged her car, and punctured holes at their house's roof using an ax in Kagman III on Thursday at noon.

Leonardo Duenas Camacho, 48, was arrested on that same day for assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $6,500 cash bail and appointed assistant public defender Tillman Clark as counsel for the defendant.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on Wednesday at 9am.

Police Detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that the victim and her child went to a residence of Ignacia Demapan in Kagman II and asked for help regarding a domestic violence at their residence in Kagman III.

Kintoki said when two police officers arrived at the residence of Demapan, they observed that the tearful victim was crying.

The victim told police that she expressed her disappointment at Camacho because he has yet to fix her vehicle and that their child was really hungry as there was no food in their house.

During their argument, Camacho allegedly hit the victim on the left eye with the back of his hand. He then grabbed a hunting knife and punctured her car's three tires and cracked the rear windshield.

Camacho allegedly tried to stab the victim with the knife, but she grabbed a broken bush cutter to prevent him from stabbing her.

The defendant then climbed up the house on a ladder and punctured holes on the roof. The victim and her child then left the house to seek assistance.

Police arrested Camacho at 1:56pm on that same day. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Registered sex offender arrested again for allegedly sexually abusing minor on Rota

A registered sex offender was arrested again over the weekend for allegedly sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl at a residence on Rota.

Nathan Iano Narcis, 31, also known as "Nat Dawg," was taken to Saipan Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $100,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for May 27 at 9:30am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Narcis. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Police Detective Tito S. Hocog II stated in his report that police arrested Narcis on Saturday at 11pm after the girl's mother contacted Rota Department of Public Safety to file a complaint of child molestation against Narcis.

Hocog said when two police officers arrived at the house, they observed Narcis crying and telling the girl's mother that he was sorry.

Hocog said the mother learned about the incident that night after her daughter went to her, looking scared and with a shivering voice.

The girl told her mother that Lizama touched her private part.

Hocog said Narcis is a registered sex offender after he was convicted with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree in 2008.

Hocog said as a registered sex offender, Narcis is prohibited to be anywhere with minors.

Narcis is a community worker at the Rota Municipal Council. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

House passes MILCON/ VA appropriations bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 4974, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017, by a vote of 295 yeas to 129 noes. The bill fully funds President Obama's budget request of $248,685,000 for military construction for Guam. These projects were authorized by H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, which passed the House last night.

H.R. 4974 also includes report language sponsored by Bordallo that requires the GAO to review the staffing, outreach, scheduling, and access management practices at the VA's Pacific Islands Healthcare System, which has jurisdiction over Guam. This language was adopted by the Appropriations Committee in April.

"Today the House continued to demonstrate our commitment to the Marine realignment and support for improving veterans services on Guam. H.R. 4974 fully funds military construction projects on Guam requested by the President and authorized by the defense authorization bill that passed last night. These funds are also included in the Senate bill that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee last month and is currently being considered on the floor. I look forward to protecting these funds during conference committee and enacting them into law later this year," said Bordallo. ***(PR)***

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Beautify CNMI! aims to address solid waste issue

Environmental group Beautify CNMI is eyeing a universal trash collection system, which they believe would be one of the solutions for the problem of solid waste maintenance in the villages and littering in tourist areas or historical sites.

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), who was among those invited by former lawmaker Cinta M. Kaipat from the Legislature along with Rep. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), said he has met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and discussed the issue on solid waste management.

"The governor told me that we must work on this issue. We should start addressing the trash and littering issues not only in tourist areas but also in the villages," said Propst, who is part of the group that attended the meeting last week at the Marianas Visitors Authority conference room.

An anti-littering bill has been sent back to the House of Representatives after the Senate made some amendments to it. Propst said they are confident that the bill would pass and Torres would sign it into a law.

Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality recycling coordinator Aileen Benavente added that an interagency anti-littering task force should also be formed to strictly enforce the law and impose fines and penalties to those who would violate it.

"As much as possible we want to have every government agency that is involved in implementing the law to be part of it. We will also train BECQ personnel to impose the appropriate fine to those caught throwing and illegally dumping trash," she added.

The fines could start at $25 and would increase depending on the severity of the violation. Those caught would also be required to do community service.

Using trusted inmates is another solution being proposed to help in picking up litter on the road and Kaipat said she would meet with Corrections chief Georgia Cabrera to discuss the idea. Inmates who would take part in the activity would be given certificates that they could be presented to the Parole Board as a sign of good standing.

Kaipat said she would meet with Cabrera to further discuss the use of trusted inmates.

The group also agreed that more trash bins must be put in place in villages especially with some people in the CNMI could not afford to pay trash collection companies.

A longterm universal trash collection is being proposed where fees would be waived and agencies like the Department of Public Works or Division of Parks and Recreation could do weekly pick up.

"It can be done. A large part of the population has no money to pay for trash collection," said Propst. ***(Jon Perez)***

'Queen' candidates, UFO hold beautification project

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Queen of the Pacific candidates join the officers and members of the United Filipino Organization in cleaning up the FilCom pavilion beside the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen of the 14 candidates of this year's Queen of the Pacific transgender pageant, along with officers and members of the United Filipino Organization, joined hands in a beautification project of the FilCom pavilion beside the Civic Center in Susupe.

A total of 30 people helped in the cleanup last Sunday where five big trash bags were filled with garbage left in the vicinity.

Malou Malasarte, wife of UFO president Bong Malasarte, led the cleanup with the 13 candidates also planting flowers at the side of the pavilion.

This is the second community service done by the "Queen" candidates after giving free haircuts to the *man'amko* last May 13 at the Office on Aging in China Town. More than 30 elderly availed of the free service.

Fourteen are vying for the Queen of the Pacific crown, a contest for transgender candidates. The coronation night is on June 11 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort with doors opening at 5pm with tickets cost $10 each.

Part of the proceeds of the pageant, which has the theme "Respect, Restore, and Save Our Natural Resources," will be donated to volunteers of the Commonwealth Health Center Corp. to buy wheelchairs that will be used for the hospital's renal care facility.

Pageant director Ernie Molina said the event is a part of the June 12 Pistang Pinoy celebration of the Philippine Independence Day.

Best in costume—where it must reflect the theme with indigenous or recycled materials to be used—evening gown, and swimwear are some of the special awards up for grabs, while the question-and-answer portion will be part of the criteria for judging.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP16-DPS/RBS-117

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 8, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO CONDUCT DIVE RESCUE TRAINING, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL TO OFFICER EMERY KAIPAT: ekaipat@dps.gov.mp (670-285-4829) NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 27, 2016.** QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-HSEM-122

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF PERSONNEL UNIFORMS FOR THE HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
ACTING SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HSEM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
of the
CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1st, 2016, at 9:30 AM at the BECQ Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION - AMENDMENT
1. GRAND MARIANA CASINO & HOTEL RESORT (CRM Permit Application No.SMS-2015-X-029, Amendment 2016-1)
a. Discussion by DCRM Agency Officials and DCRM Director
b. Permit Application Determination

III. MISCELLANEOUS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind it's **RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS** customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**. Payments not received by close of business on **May 24** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Tuesday, May 24**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.

IT&E
Life In Motion

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Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

PAY BY PHONE: 682-4ITE (4483)

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY

Position: Housekeeping Cleaner (10)
Qualification: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of 6 months work in a hotel is preferred. Able to speak and write English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good Customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects.

Position: Laundry Attendant (2)
Qualification: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights & holidays.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from our security office located at the South Wing. To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than May 26, 2016. Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

AGAPE Christian School

9TH COMMENCEMENT AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

School Year 2015-2016

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Educate, Inspire & Change Lives

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2016

K5 GRADUATES

Reyviel Van Escarlan
Valedictorian

Rochelle Ann Stephanie Deleon
Salutatorian

Jericho Hinolan

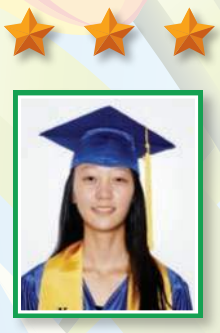
Anqi He

Rihanna Grace Deleon

Tiger Guo

Xin Yu Yang

8TH GRADE GRADUATES



Joy Lu Xile
Valedictorian
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Evangeline Liu Enhui
Salutatorian
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

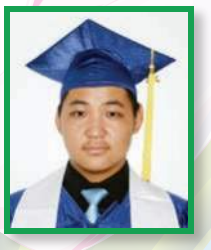
Chen Bailin
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Andrea Feng Enhao
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

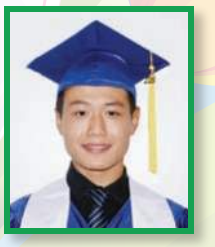
Samuel Hu Enze
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Calvin LiangZhencheng
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Dive Lin Yisheng
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School



Lawrence Tu Guanghua
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School



Caleb Wang Enfeng
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Annie Wang Enyi
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Gerald Wang Qingyuan
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

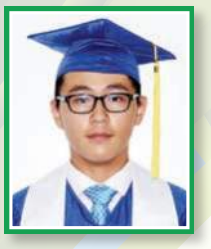
Jason Wang Shengen
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Sarah Wu Su
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Tiffany Yang Shengai
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Vivian Zhang Wenjun
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

May Zhang Yawen
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School



Joshua Zou Enlin
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

Kitty Yu Duojia
Next phase of study:
Agape Christian School

SENIORS

Elizabeth Chen Beibei
Valedictorian
Next Destination:
Major in Nursing
Matriculate at Pensacola Christian College, Florida, U.S.A.

Owen Ou Yuanzhi
Salutatorian
Next Destination:
Major in Military
Matriculate at United States Military Academy, (West Point), New York, U.S.A.

Priscilla Shen Beiér
Next Destination:
Major in Elementary Education
Pensacola Christian College, Florida, U.S.A.

Sophia Shi Jihong
Next Destination:
Major in Nursing
Pensacola Christian College, Florida, U.S.A.

Ruth Wang Yiqian
Next Destination:
Major in Marketing
Pensacola Christian College, Florida, U.S.A.

Abigail Yan Xin
Next Destination:
Major in Secondary Education.
Pensacola Christian College, Florida, U.S.A.

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Commonwealth honors retired associate judge Wiseman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"Everything has a beginning and an end. The time to end this chapter seems about as right as it could be."

Thus stated David A. Wiseman in his retirement speech after serving 15 years on the bench, making him the longest in the CNMI Judiciary's history to serve as associate judge of the Superior Court.

In concluding his speech during the Judiciary's special proceeding for his retirement on Friday in the CNMI Supreme Court, Wiseman said he takes pride and joy having made, along with his several colleagues, what he believes to be significant advancements for the CNMI Judiciary.

"I believe that my judgments have maintained a competence in the law, untouched by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism," Wiseman said during the packed ceremony attended by government officials, Cabinet members, lawmakers, judges, justices, lawyers, former judges, court employees, and friends of the judge and his wife.

Wiseman said the result of many of his decisions have contributed to "a solid legal foundation in the CNMI."

Wiseman made significant efforts for judicial involvement in improving the community—the most recent being the Drug Court, which is expected to be well underway in July.

"I am proud to say that the legacy I leave on the court is one that has been surrounded by a high degree of distinction, honor, and integrity which I always strived to maintain," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said Wiseman has been in the forefront in the establishment of the CNMI Drug Court, which is very important considering the epidemic of methamphetamine or "ice" in the Commonwealth.

"The Drug Court is a historical moment for all of us especially to the families who are affected," Torres said.

The governor said he and Wiseman have always talked about the next judge to fill up his position.

Torres said he really wants to get Wiseman's input and appreciates his advice as what characteristics to see in appointing a new judge.

"I want to personally thank you for your service," the governor told Wiseman.

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro made the welcome remarks.

All justices and judges also made remarks about Wiseman.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona recalled that he and Wiseman used to be neighbors on Rota.

Manglona remembered how his father really valued Wiseman's advice.

Manglona said that last week, the Judiciary and the CNMI Bar Association had a symposium and that Wiseman was there, giving advice to young lawyers.

"Judge, we will miss your company. We will miss your friendship," Manglona said.

Associate Justice Perry B. Inos said the thing that really stood up for Judge Wiseman is that he is fair and impartial.

"The words that you received today are very true," Inos said.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said he and Wiseman, being the senior among the judges, shared administrative responsibilities of the court's affair.

Naraja said Wiseman's written decisions are exceptional.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Retired Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman talks with U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan as they and Wiseman's wife, Faythe, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pose with Attorney General Edward Manibusan, extreme right, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, fifth from left, and lawmakers during the Judiciary's special session for Wiseman's retirement from the bench at the CNMI Supreme Court on Friday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Retired Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman and his wife, Faythe, in a group photo with his loyal employee, Vivian Sablan Dela Cruz, and her two children during the Judiciary's special session for Wiseman's retirement from the bench at the CNMI Supreme Court on Friday. Dela Cruz served as secretary for Wiseman for 32 years that started in 1984 at his law office.

Naraja said Wiseman is an inspiration to all the judges and court staff.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said Wiseman takes the law very seriously.

"He loves being a judge every single day," Govendo said, adding that Wiseman has been a great help not only to him but also other judges whether it's advice or past decisions.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said Wiseman is very generous in sharing his knowledge.

"We became good friends," Camacho said.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio remembered that when she was nominated on the bench, Wiseman, who was in San Francisco, California at that time, called her early morning just to congratulate her.

Kim-Tenorio disclosed that Wiseman is known for being updated on gadgets.

Kim-Tenorio said she and other judges and staff are also going to miss the bananas that Wiseman loved to share with them.

Vivian S. Dela Cruz, judicial assistant to Wiseman, and Conrad Y. Ohashi, law clerk for Wiseman, read the Judiciary's Resolution for Wiseman's outstanding services and contributions to the Judiciary. Dela Cruz tried to control her tears.

Senate vice president Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) led the lawmakers' presentation of resolutions for Wiseman's great contributions to the CNMI. Saipan Mayor David Apatang also gave resolution to the judge. The Judiciary and CNMI Bar Association presented gifts to him.

Wiseman received standing ovation after his wife, Faythe, retired his judicial robe.

In his speech, Wiseman said it is a deep sense of gratitude, achievement and regret that he is retiring from his position as an associate judge.

"I am truly grateful for having had the very special and profound opportunity of being able to serve the people of the CNMI, in several capacities, over a period of about four decades of a career spent in the CNMI, 39 years to be exact," Wiseman said.

Wiseman and his wife arrived on Saipan on July 7, 1977 (7-7-77) when they were both enrolled as Peace Corps volunteers, serving the pre-Commonwealth government of Rota.

As the 15th judge to serve the CNMI Judiciary, Wiseman served 15 years.

Wiseman shared his stories how he witnessed and participated in the incipient of the CNMI government and the Judiciary and their evolution.

He remembered that there were only 14,000 people at that time in the CNMI and that a person can identify a new car on the island driving along the small one- or two-lane roads.

He said there was only one TV—the Trust Territory TV station in black and white, the power and water were on and off, and making a call to the U.S. mainland was a trying and an expensive experience.

"About $3-$4 a minute and most of the call was spent yelling, I can't hear you," said Wiseman, drawing laughter from his colleagues and guests.

Wiseman, visibly trying to control his emotions, expressed special words of praise and gratitude for her secretary, Vivian Sablan Dela Cruz, whom he described as his friend and loyal employee who started out with him in his law office in 1984.

He said Dela Cruz has three children, all his God-children.

He said Dela Cruz has been his loyal and competent employee for 32 years.

"How fortunate I have been to have had her dedicated services and loyalty for more than three decades," Wiseman said.

He served the people of the CNMI as a designated judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI for 14 consecutive years.

He spent more than 38 years of his career in the CNMI. Wiseman also served the first, second, and third CNMI Legislature as legal counsel and the fifth and 11th as a committee counsel. He represented several government agencies as a private attorney, while simultaneously serving as a special judge for several years.

Mostly tourists avail of same-sex union

Majority of same-sex unions administered by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang consists of tourists, according to the Mayor's Office.

Apatang has already presided over nine same-sex union ceremonies since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized it last year.

Apatang said the tourist couples just come here to Saipan to get married since same-sex union is legal in the CNMI, one of three U.S. territories that followed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.

American Samoa does not recognize same-sex unions.

"They apply for a marriage license, fill out the forms, submit the proper documents, pay the court fee, and we schedule the date of the ceremony. The tourists come here since they know it is legal here," said Apatang.

The fee is $50 and will be paid at the CNMI Superior Court and the ceremony is held every Tuesdays to Thursdays according to Saipan Mayor's Office marriage coordinator Bobbie Yamada. "It's a very easy process.

Last month, Apatang performed same-sex unions to four couples, mostly females. Two more are scheduled either later this month or in June.

"They are very private, discreet but want to make their relationship official. They are particular with confidentiality," said Apatang. ***(Jon Perez)***

MHS releases calendar of yearend activities

The end of this year is marked with many activities as the Marianas High School Dolphins brings School Year 2015-2016 to a successful finish as well as prepares for School Year 2016-2017. Below are some very important dates.

May 30: Memorial Day

May 26, 27, 31: Senior graduation practice (8:30am-11:30am). Graduates must attend.

May 23 through June 3: Continuing student registration

May 31-June 3: Early dismissal (12pm).

June 1: MHS awards ceremony and final practice (9am). Graduates must attend.

June 2: MHS graduation ceremony (5pm). The ceremony will be held at MHS.

June 3: Last Day of School

June 13: Fourth quarter report card distribution at the MHS main office.

June 13 through July 15: Registration for new students

Aug. 9: Teachers and counselors report to work

Aug. 11: School orientation for incoming 9th graders and new students

Aug. 12: School orientation for 10th-12th grade students

Aug. 15: First day of school for School Year 2016-2017

Please visit our school website, marianashighschool.com, for regular updates. If you have any questions regarding the above dates and activities, please feel free to email me at cherlyn.cabrera@cnmipss.org or call the school 237-3206 ext. 3206. ***(PR)***

Tough Geographic Bee competition awaits Santos

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Victoria Nicole Santos is expecting a tougher competition when she competes in today's National Geographic Bee finals in Washington, D.C. The 12-year-old, her coach Manuel Castro, and parents Ferdinand and Imelda Santos left Saipan last Saturday.

They went via Guam-Honolulu-Los Angeles-Baltimore in Maryland. They are expected to arrive in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, Monday on Saipan, in time for the welcoming of the 54 contestants.

Santos, an incoming 8th grader who is on the Marianas Baptist Academy President's List, had been studying at home and practicing with her coach at school since earning the right to represent the Pacific Territories last month. Castro gave her all the materials to review.

She will be going up against the representatives from the 50 U.S. states, the federal district of Washington, D.C., Atlantic Territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

The elimination round starts today with the Top 10 moving on the finals. World culture, history, and geography are the questions that will be asked to all contestants.

Castro said they also submitted a video answer on the judges' pre-question: What place would you make a national park in your area if you have the power to choose? Santos answered the old airport on Saipan where World War II bunkers can still be seen with the other side being the Laolao and Obyan beaches.

Santos, who is experiencing mixed emotions with the trip, said she considers history as her strength in the competition. "But I'm a little bit weak when it comes to places. You need to be specific with your answers in the questions in this category."

She studied the almanac, maps, and history books in preparation for the May 22-26 competition.

This will also be the first time since 2008 that a CNMI bet made it to the national finals. Vinni Orsini was the first from the CNMI that represented the Pacific Island Territories.

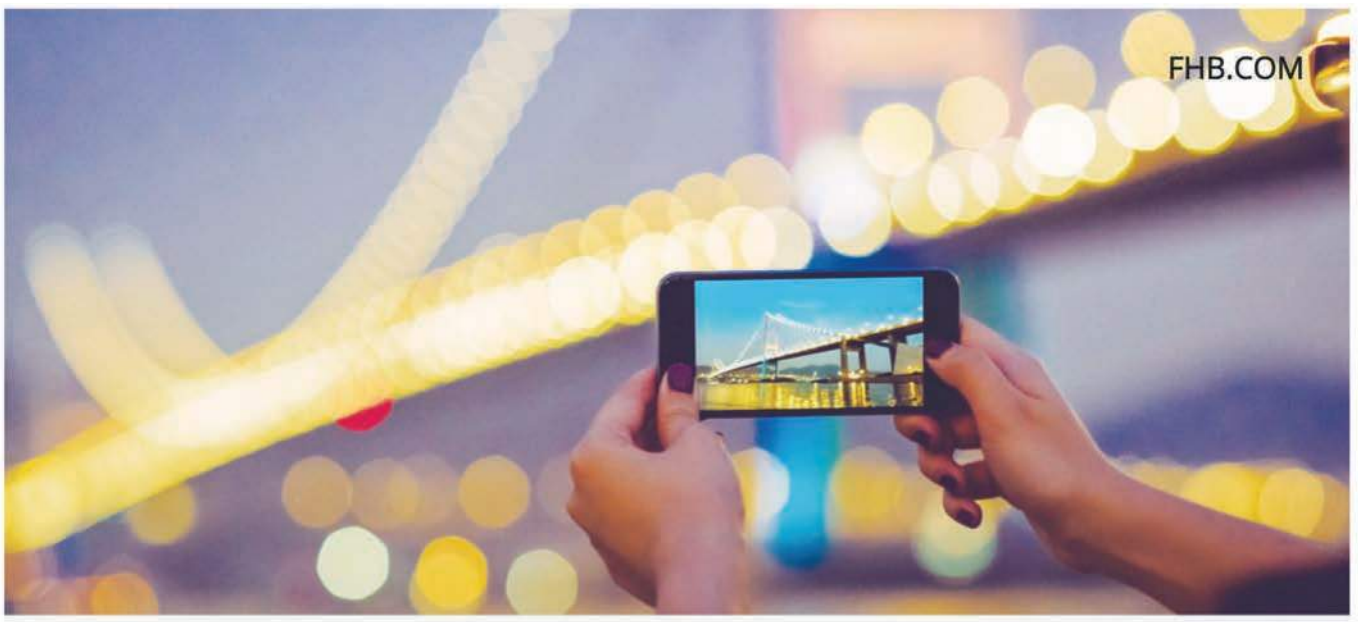
Santos first won MBA's competition to earn the right of representing MBA to be one of the Top 10 in the Pacific Territories competition where she finished on top to reach the national finals.

Jabez Victoria (Grace Christian Academy-Saipan), Xue Zhen Qiu (Hopwood), Guam's Katherine Cruz (Bishop Baumgartner Memorial Catholic School), Napu Blas (Captain Henry B. Price Elementary School), and Brian Chan (Harvest Christian Academy), and American Samoa's Sitivi Wong Mageo (Manumalo Baptist Academy), Tovi'o Aufata (Olomoana Elementary School), Victor Chen (Pacific Horizons School), and Aiden Siuloa (U.P. Coleman Elementary School) are the other Pacific Territories finalists.

JON PEREZ
Victoria Nicole Santos, left, and her coach Manuel Castro use the free period in reviewing for the National Geographic Bee finals. Santos, her parents, and Castro left last Saturday in time for the start of competition on Monday, Tuesday on Saipan, in Washington, D.C.

'14OS' Jury Selection on May 23 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "14OS" that the Jury Selection scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016, at 8:30am in Courtroom 205A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, please contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at 236-9766. ***(PR)***



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Vive la peace process: The French push for Israeli-Palestinian talks

The French are pushing ahead with yet another attempt to resolve the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians, seeking a two-state resolution of the 68-year-old problem of the division of land between them.

Unlike previous efforts, the U.S. would not be in the middle of this one, at least at the beginning. The most recent push ended in 2014 when America gave up on negotiations. That round crashed and burned when the Palestinians refused to proceed while the Israelis continued to increase West Bank settlement.

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry see a renewal of serious negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian problem as unfinished business in Obama's eight years in office. It is not so much a question of legacy, but more one of a major problem that they have not been able to dent. In the meantime, relations between Israelis and Palestinians have deteriorated, most recently into a series of personal attacks with knives and other weapons. The casualties have accumulated to the degree that some observers consider it part of a third intifada.

The French have for some time expressed a willingness to take on the project of relaunching negotiations, called by some the Middle East peace process. They are now organizing a conference of foreign ministers of some 30 countries, including China, India and Russia. The gathering, once set for late May, has been pushed into the early summer in an effort to accommodate Kerry's schedule. The actual conference relaunching the negotiations would be held before the end of the year.

As of now, neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians would be at the preliminary conference. The French may feel that the state of relations between American and Israeli leadership is such that a key role for the U.S. would not be helpful. Last year's nuclear deal with Iran and the U.N. Security Council permanent members, guided by the United States, left U.S.-Israel relations raw, as Israel strongly opposed the pact that lifted economic sanctions for a temporary termination of Iran's nuclear weapons program.

France is to be commended for trying to bring resolution to this problem, basic to long-term peace in the Mideast. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes talks; divisions among Palestinians weaken prospects for success. But, given the stakes, it is very much worthy of another try.

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YOU DON'T SEE THIS KIND OF UNITY IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY!
BEAT IT, BERNIE!
CHILL, HILL!
I WENT ALL the WAY to the DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, and ALL I GOT WAS THIS LOUSY Team SHIRT
HITCH

Now it is Democrats, not Republicans, at war with each other

By DAVID HORSEY
Los Angeles Times

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David Horsey is a political commentator for the Los Angeles Times*. Go to latimes.com/news/politics/topoftheticket/ to see more of his work.*

My friend Cindy has been waiting a long time to see her favorite candidate, Hillary Clinton, become the Democratic Party nominee for president. She was disappointed when Barack Obama ran off with the prize in 2008 and hoped there would be an open road for Hillary in 2016.

In March, Cindy went to her precinct caucus in Seattle and got chosen to move on to the legislative district caucus as a vote for Clinton. That turned out to be a miserable experience, thanks to the aggressive antics of some Bernie Sanders supporters. "It got ugly," Cindy said. Here is part of the note she texted to me on April 17, the day of the gathering:

"A fragile-looking 18-year-old girl volunteered to speak briefly about her support for Hillary. A Bernie supporter yelled 'fascist,' then others joined in with yelling and booing. It was like a Trump rally.

"Bernie delegates kept interrupting the caucus proceedings, protesting nearly every motion. Hillary supporters were mostly shell-shocked and quiet. The folks running the caucus kept trying to explain that the delegate numbers for Bernie/Hillary would not change from the March caucus — we were just voting for the platform and choosing who will serve as delegates to the state (convention), but Berniacs were ramped up and hell bent on hijacking the caucus….

"After four hours, I walked outside to call (my husband) to come pick me up. Some Bernie supporters overheard me describing the ugliness and chaos and they told me they were embarrassed by the behavior of their fellow Bernie delegates.

"The insanity continued. As I was leaving, a young Bernie delegate from my precinct asked for a ride home. … We both left saddened and disillusioned."

Now that the actions and attitudes of Sanders supporters have become a national issue thanks to the chaos at the Nevada Democratic convention last weekend, Cindy's experience does not sound unusual. She sent me another text in the wake of Nevada debacle to say how familiar it all sounded. "I just heard Jeff Weaver (Sanders' campaign manager) say on CNN that what happened in Nevada was unique," Cindy said. "Not true. He needs a reality check."

Actually, the entire Democratic Party needs a reality check. For months, pundits have talked about a civil war in the Republican Party and the potential for a destructive split between establishment conservatives and Donald Trump's populist insurgents. Well, the Republicans seem to be quickly getting used to the idea of Trump at the top of their ticket. Meanwhile, the rancor between the mainline Democrats who back Clinton and the activists who see Sanders as the only ideologically pure choice for progressives is getting worse.

There is always bad feeling between competing camps in hotly contested primaries and maybe by the time the Democratic convention in Philadelphia comes to an end, Democrats will be united behind their candidate. That is what usually happens, but this time could be different. Many Bernie bros and Sanders sisters are, like their candidate, new to the Democratic Party. Not only new, they are antagonistic to party leadership, viewing people like DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz — not to mention Hillary Clinton — as morally compromised members of a corrupt establishment that is as repellant as the GOP. If and when they lose in Philadelphia, do not expect them to suddenly stick Hillary pins on their lapels (if they even have lapels).

Politics can get rough. The Clinton campaign has played hardball to get as many delegates as possible and they have benefited from a familiarity with the rules of the game that most of Sanders' newcomers lack. But the Sanders legion has played rough, as well, especially in caucus settings where they have been able to gain advantage with numbers and noise. The difference is that some Bernie backers feel their righteousness excuses anything they do, while they view the countermoves by the other side as unfair and "fascist."

Democratic leaders are calling on Sanders to rein in the excesses of his most bellicose fans. So far, his words of caution have been tepid and that is a problem for Democrats. Their fate is in the hands of a politician who, like many of his supporters, never called himself a Democrat until he decided to upend conventional politics by running for president.

This has been the year of the outsider in both political parties. It would be wildly ironic if the excesses of Sanders' partisans cause so much damage to the Democratic Party that the outsider they end up electing is a guy named Trump.

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Medals of Valor remind us police deserve respect

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

Twenty-nine years ago this week, I graduated from law school. It's been almost three decades since I've been able to officially call myself an "officer of the court," a title I wear with a great deal of pride and an even greater amount of embarrassment. I've always been a little ashamed of using that moniker because, in a vague way, it implies valor on my part that I don't possess. The word "officer" makes me think of someone in a uniform, either on an urban or foreign battlefield, defending fellow citizens against imminent danger. That's hardly the stuff of my daily life.

Yes, it's true some attorneys confront very real threats in the course of honoring their oaths to uphold the law. I've written about one of them, someone I knew quite well, who went to Mississippi in 1967 during the waning days of the civil rights movement and had encounters with screaming bigots and the Ku Klux Klan. My father was not alone in this, not by a longshot. That particular moment in history was filled with brave men and women, some of whom also happened to be lawyers, the real-life Atticus Finches who walked among us in those dangerous days.

Then, of course, there was Thomas More, who paid for his scruples with his life.

But these are magnificent exceptions to the more mundane rule, and, while I will always be extremely proud of my pedigree and of the work it involves, I do not equate it with the profound physical courage demanded of other "officers."

On Monday, President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Valor to 13 public safety officers who "have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety." The honor, created by Congress in 2001, recognizes the type of bravery that requires both mental and physical acuity, the symbiosis of mind, body, and most especially, heart. Twelve of the men who received their medals were able to take them from the hands of a clearly moved commander in chief. One, tragically, surely surveyed the ceremony from heaven, as his grandmother accepted the award in his name.

Sgt. Robert Wilson III earned that medal on March 5, 2015. He was at a GameStop store in North Philadelphia, buying a present for his son, when two brothers entered the store and announced a robbery. They brandished semi-automatic handguns, Wilson drew his weapon and engaged the robbers, two on one. He is credited with having distracted the robbers from other customers in the store, and didn't stop shooting, even though he himself had been wounded. He was stopped only by a fatal bullet to the head. There were no other casualties that day.

I remember reading about Wilson last year, and I could barely make it through the reports without stopping to wipe my eyes. That man's courage is too big for words, too deep for normal understanding, too painful for dispassionate discussion. He, and his brothers and sisters in uniform, stand alone. They form an island of honor we can observe, but cannot hope to inhabit.

The other officers honored this week had similar stories, and, while they escaped with the precious rest of their lives, their acts are no less heroic than Wilson's. One rescued a toddler from a knife-wielding predator. One, off duty, rescued a man from a burning car and suffered serious injuries. One engaged in gunfire with a young man who had shot and wounded his parents and was threatening to go on a rampage near an elementary school.

I know police officers have been the target of negative publicity in the past few years. Some of it is justified, I suppose, although I do think there has been far too much negativity and far too little context given to the stories in Ferguson, Mo., Baltimore, New York and elsewhere around the country. Hashtags about racial divides are newsworthy, and make for juicy headlines, but they have a tendency to demonize one side and canonize the other.

Neither posture advances the truth.

What I do know is that the bad cops, that bread and butter of investigative journalists, are in the minority. And even the bad ones are still, on occasion, noble creatures who have willingly enlisted in a profession that places them on a collision course with danger, every blessed day.

The vast majority court that danger with pure hearts, and the souls of giants.

A month or so ago, a police officer I knew who was a very good man took his own life. There were the complications of a troubled life, but, in the end, he was an honorable man and served his city up to his final moments. The shadows surrounding the circumstances of his death do not change the importance of that service.

All of this is to say we owe this profession a higher level of deference and respect than we do almost any other, except perhaps the firefighters who run toward the flames and the soldiers to who run toward the gunfire. Their flaws come from their humanity, and we are all susceptible to that. But their heroism reaches heights that we will never touch, and that should be remembered.

I'm grateful to the president, for remembering our bravest.

Another myth of the Mayas

By STEPHENNIE MULDER
Los Angeles Times

Stephennie Mulder is a professor of art history and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a specialist in Islamic architecture and archaeology and a consultant on cultural heritage issues. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

It was a good story while it lasted: A 15-year-old boy discovered a lost city by theorizing that a modern star map would correlate with ancient Maya settlements. It seemed to fit the common understanding of the Maya as peaceful stargazers, centuries ahead of their time in astronomical observation and deeply mystical. It only makes sense they'd plan their cities to align with constellations.

The teenage scientist, William Gadoury, of Saint-Jean-de-Matha, Quebec, overlaid constellations and known Maya cities. When he found a gap where it seemed a settlement ought to have been, he consulted satellite imagery and found shapes the looked man-made. Suddenly, the lost city story went viral.

The Canadian Space Agency, which had supplied Gadoury with the satellite images, swiftly awarded him a Medal of Merit. A University of New Brunswick expert on geospatial technology suggested he might have found a metropolis with 30 buildings and a large pyramid. The teen was interviewed by the BBC, and the public passed along word of his achievement as his story skyrocketed to the top of the global media's trending topics.

The only problem is, Gadoury was most likely wrong. David Stuart, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and one of the world's leading experts on the Maya, was among the first to raise an alarm. He argued that the square shape Gadoury saw on a satellite image of the Maya heartland was probably a fallow agricultural field. Since then, numerous other experts have cast doubts on Gadoury's city, some even presenting evidence that what was aligned with the constellations was actually an old marijuana plot.

The rise and fall of this particular news flash is a perfect illustration of the way a hyperspeed media landscape can elevate speculative, unproven "facts" to prize-worthy status. On a recent Sunday, the satirist John Oliver devoted his commentary on his HBO show, "Last Week Tonight," to the problem of junk science and the media's role in swiftly enshrining hypothesis and theory as truth.

Oliver gleefully mimicked the hyperbolic morning-talk-show approach to science journalism: "A new study shows coffee can kill you! A new study shows coffee can cure cancer!"

The lost city story undeniably had a lot going for it as a media phenomenon. It conformed to cherished tropes: the appealing plotline of the genius kid scientist who sees what the hidebound researchers and experts missed. And an equally appealing confirmation of popular if incomplete notions about the Maya. The story felt right, not least because of the stereotypical notion of indigenous peoples innately in tune with nature. (Never mind the detail that the Maya exploited the land to the point of environmental collapse.)

Gadoury undoubtedly deserves genuine praise for his initiative and drive. His hypothesis about how constellations relate to Maya cities may even deserve closer study. Certainly archaeologists, Maya experts and geospatial scientists have something to say to each other: Remote-sensing technology has enhanced archaeological ground surveys in spectacular fashion in Jordan, Egypt, Peru and other locales, earning researcher Sarah Parcak the nickname "space archaeologist."

But so much else about this particular lost city story is cause for concern. We've come to value the thrill of the seeming breakthrough over the slower processes of analytical thinking and the importance of scholarly expertise. The geospatial specialist at the University of New Brunswick and the Canadian Space Agency should have taken the time to call a Maya expert for verification before giving Gadoury any sort of endorsement, let alone a medal.

As for the media, reporters too must cast a critical eye on scientific discoveries. They can't hide behind merely presenting the news; they need to check findings with experts and scientists who weren't involved in the research in question. As Oliver suggested when he lampooned the reporting on caffeine's risks and benefits, a minimum requirement for science journalists is to understand the difference between initial trials and repeated studies that confirm results and build a consensus vetted through peer review.

Finally, all of us who consume the news could also do better in the critical-thought department. What trends on social media isn't necessarily a fact. What sounds too good to be true usually is.

Still, there are several positive take-aways from the lost city story. Gadoury's enterprise should serve as a model for other aspiring scientists; he may well have a bright future as an archaeologist. And the excitement the public demonstrated about even a false lost city discovery at least proves that interest in ancient civilizations is very much alive.

There are, no doubt, lost cities left to be discovered. The best way to do it is to support and fund careful collaborations between down-in-the-dirt archaeology and all the other sciences that can enhance their work. When that effort lands on the real thing, we'll have something lasting to tweet, post, share and award.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When is the special election?

Honorable na Governador Rafael de Leon Guerrero Torres yan Honorable na Lugarteniente de Governador Vic Hocog (Lieutenant Governor-U.S. territory). Esta mamangfung i haane nai debe de u guaha espesiat na botasion pot para u ma bota, ofisiatmente, i tahguena i difunto na Governador as Eloy Inos, yan u ma bota i tahguemo gi ofisinan Lugarteniente de Governador. Gi pagugu ha na ora, trabia hau yan si Honorable Hocog en mantietiene ha I titulon miyo temporariamente como "Acting" capacity.

Tisina na para un governador debatde sin ma bota. Gi anai ma tachong hau komo Acting Governor, I iyotta Constitution numae hau nu enau na Titulo, ya un aksepta i mandaton I iyotta Constitution, I etmas tadkilu na lai I Northern Marianas. Ya sa hafa pagu na ti para un aksepta mandasion I iyotta Constitution ya u mana guaha espesiat na botasion para Governador? I Constitution umentrega hau ni Titulon Temporario na Governador "Acting Governor." Sosolo hau ha na kandidato para Governador. Debe di un ma bota ya u klaro I situation. Tisina na para un na sulon hau ha halom gi ofisinan Governador sin ma bota. Na guaha espesiat na botasion, ya ti bai en fan mamahlau na gomobietno ha hau sin mabota asi komo ginagagau ni i iyotta Constitution. Be an elected governor and curb any embarrassment on us that you are a governor without been elected. The opinions which your group gave you that midnite and urged you to be sworn in, was wrong. They only gave you a non-binding opinion. You were already an Acting Governor per the Consitutional mandate when Inos died in California. You don't have to be re-sworn in again. No matter what you do, though, you cannot be a "Bona Fides" governor without the special election.

I fino niha i jues siha yan i abogado general, opinion ha trabia. Sa hafa? Sa i Jues gi anai guaha finona ya trabia ti ma kondudukta i Kotte, yangin para u gai bale "legally binding," debe de ayu na finiho u ma sangan gi anai ma kondudukta i Kotte,, era esta matutuhon I Kotte. Ensegidas de ma tutuhon i Kotte, todo sinisede gi halum Kotte gi ayo na horan kotte ma rekognisa na bale. I Jues, yangin guaha hafa ilegna gi hiyong i oran I Kotte, ya para u gai bale, debe de u guaha "Motion for a change of Venue," pot para u ma tulaika I lugat Kotte sa guaha asunto ni para u ma rekonosi gi hiyung i Kotte sa guaha chinatsaga o sino tisina ma chuli guatu gi Kotte. Todo hafa ilegna i Jues gi anai ti ma tututuhon osino ti ma kondudukta trabia i Kotte ofisiatmente, tai bale, meaning that "If the Court is not in session, what the judge say is only a conversation, "it is not a binding opinion nor is it an adjudication." In order for a Judge's statement to be legally binding, the Court would have to be in session, and the statement made during that specific time period during the session. Otherside, there would have to be "A motion for a change of Venue." I halum i kotte ha nai gai bale i fino i Jues. Gai bale yan metgot na fuetsa.

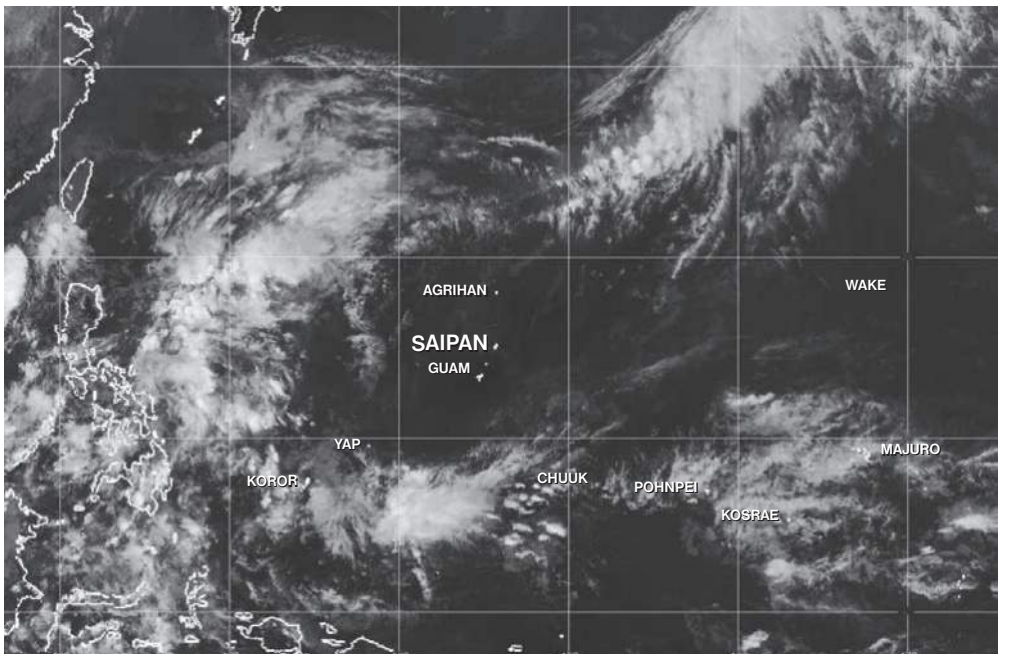
Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:37 PM, MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front north of the Mariana curves southwestward from 25N154E to 22N150E to 22N140E then northwestward to beyond 25N135E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles north of the front. Converging southeast winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas well west of the Marianas to the west of a line from 25N135E to 18N135E to 9N131E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in a band just east of Koror and south of Yap between 8N and 5N from 135E to 145E. Another trade-wind disturbance moving from Kosrae state into Pohnpei state is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 12N and 2N from 159E to 164E. Surging trade-winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Majuro between 10N and 7N from 171E to 173E and northeast of Butaritari within 75 miles of a line from 5N174E to 6N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲66	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼62
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼50
Miami	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼67
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼47
Pusan	Rain	▲74	▼59
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲63	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Seoul	Rain	▲72	▼57
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼67
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲71	▼57

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
11:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:40 PM	7:31 AM
Wednesday	9:30 PM	8:21 AM
Thursday	10:19 PM	9:13 AM
Friday	11:07 PM	10:06 AM
Saturday	11:54 PM	11:00 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

CUC says it will update public on activities, plans

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. issued a press release stating its "recent activities" to "inform the general public" after some of its board members received criticisms on travel expenditures as well as holding off-island meeting and attending a meeting on having an agreement for a reverse osmosis project on Saipan.

According to CUC, it "will be keeping the general public informed on any ongoing developments and other plans toward improving its utility services for the people of the CNMI."

The press release, signed by acting executive director Gary Camacho, explained that "On May 13, 2016, the CUC Board also held its first ever regular meeting on the island of Rota since the inception of the board in 2014."

"This was in compliance with the board's bylaws and allowed the opportunity for CUC's customers on the Island of Rota to bring forth any concerns to the board. The CUC Board will also be scheduling a board meeting to be held in the island of Tinian later this year," it added.

However, as stated in earlier media reports, no one from Rota attended CUC's board meeting last week with some residents saying that they weren't notified of such a meeting.

CUC board director Dave Sablan, who said he did not attend the meeting to help cut down costs, earlier also aired his concerns to fellow directors on holding the meeting on Rota as they have already incurred about $92,000 in board and travel expenditures.

Sablan noted to his fellow directors that they do not have a budget for "an off-Saipan meeting this fiscal year."

He said that they, as a board, "could easily have waived [the by-law] on the record, and henceforth hold all meetings in Saipan till we pass a budget that allows for such meetings" and "issues related to Rota—or Tinian for that matter—are on the agenda."

Sablan, who was former chair of the CUC board until he was ousted by the majority, stated to current chair Adelina Roberto that she "does not have to follow what the majority of members decide on where to hold our meetings…you can decide that on your own based on what you believe to be the right thing to do."

CUC's press release also pointed out that "On May 13, 2016, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in the island of Rota for a newly built EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Administration) Hazardous Containment Facility built at the Power Plant. The facility brings CUC into compliance with EPA requirements."

"In attendance to witness the ceremony were dignitaries who included the CUC Board, Mayor of Rota, Rota Municipal Council, CNMI Legislature, BECQ, and the general public," it added.

Media earlier made reports on CUC's ribbon cutting ceremony for the $170,000 steel-roofed structure that was built for the power plant on Rota for used oil containment after the area experienced oil spill due to lack of roofing for the used oil containers.

The press release further explains the meeting that CUC attended with a quorum of board members—namely Roberto, Joe Torres, Albert Taitano, and Ignacio Perez—regarding a proposal to have a public to public partnership agreement to build a reverse osmosis water treatment plant on Saipan.

"On May 11, 2016, an informative presentation was given at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan. The presentation was given at the invitation of the Lieutenant Governor's Office. The invitation was extended to both houses of the Legislature, other members of the government and members of CUC's Board and Management. The presentation focused the availability of public water on Saipan. One of the solutions to Saipan's diminishing water supply was the idea of a Reverse Osmosis (RO) System," the release stated.

Sablan also raised his concerns to fellow board members on their attendance to this meeting, while pointing out that, as part of the board, he was not given notice or invitation of the dinner meeting.

"Even if I did, I would not have attended, because there may be a quorum of board members, and if so, any deliberation of an issue, outside of a duly-noticed public meeting, toward a decision that is made at a public meeting of the CUC Board is illegal," Sablan said.

Sablan suggested that they "avoid any gathering of four or more members of the Board, outside of an official and duly-noticed public meeting as prescribed in the OGA, and the CUC enabling Act" until they have an AG's opinion that such meetings attended by quorum of board members are present, are not in violation of the OGA.

"Any presentation before the CUC Board (where a quorum is present) should be in a duly-noticed public meeting as prescribed in the OGA. Mr. Toelkes could have made the presentation to us in a public meeting. He has appeared in our meetings before and has addressed the Board in the 'Public Comments' part of our meeting," Sablan said.

Sablan added that he has "very serious reservations" with regard to the RO system.

"I have very serious reservations about looking at an RO system before we address other critical projects before us now, i.e., defective meters/theft of water and a leaking distribution (and probably transmission) system, where a very high percentage of our water is lost," Sablan said.

WPS has new middle school teacher

A single teacher can make all the difference in a child's life and leave a lasting mark in shaping who we are. Whispering Palms School well recognizes that fact and has always prided itself in providing highly qualified and motivated teachers to its student body. Next school year will no doubt prove to be an exceptional year as students are excitedly awaiting the first days of instruction from JoAnn Burke who comes with over 25 years of teaching experience.

Burke hails from the state of Michigan and has dedicated her life to education. Burke has thrived in motivating and teaching middle school students how to be proactive in both special education and regular instruction. She has taught a wide range of topics from science, math, social sciences, and language arts in differentiated instructions to suit the individual needs of each student. Over the years she has also gained experience working with students who have difficulties at school as a graduation coach, helping students achieve their goals both in and outside the classroom.

Burke

She has used Success Maker with lower math students, helped with E2020 classes, piloted a remedial math program with 8th grade students in 2011, participated in lesson studies with the district math consultants and elementary and middle school math teachers, and was a member of the math curriculum revision committee. In language arts, Burke modified the research unit to focus on college admissions and career offerings. Part of the unit required all students to write business letters to a university. One of her students actually received a $250 scholarship to be used for the college of her choice after high school graduation. Her unit was so successful that it became the required English Language Arts unit for the 8th grade research project at Monroe Middle School in Michigan.

Burke has experience in addressing students' learning gaps. She has initiated and has seen successful implementation of changes through credit recovery program to lessen students' learning gaps.

Currently employed as a graduation coach at Monroe High School, she works with students who are at-risk of dropping out by developing, implementing and tracking intervention plans and strategies. One method was to raise expectations for the students by setting up two college tours. As a member of the District Improvement Planning Committee, the School Improvement Committee, and the County-wide MTSS Committee, her instruction and involvement spans beyond the classroom by connecting with community agencies that have mentored her students.

Burke proves that there is no one specific way to educate. The most important factor may be to never give up on a child's education. With her knowledge of several alternative education programs that will allow the students the opportunity to continue their education, Whispering Palms School is very fortunate to have Burke showcase her innovative teaching in 2016-2017 school year. It has been her lifelong dream to live on a tropical island and WPS' next school year may see her dream as well as her students' become that much more fulfilled.

For more information, please contact saipanpriva-teschool.com; Facebook: Whispering Palms School or simply call 323-7451. ***(PR)***

Ngalongalo is new Ayuyu Battalion commander

Kagman High School JROTC executive officer Cadet/Maj. Alfredo Ngalongalo Jr. last May 11 was promoted to cadet/lieutenant colonel as the new battalion commander for Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion JROTC for SY 2016-2017.

He replaced former KHS commander Cadet/Lt. Colonel Philippe Lacson during the change of command ceremony that was held last Wednesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion Commander Cadet/Lt. Col. Alfredo Ngalongalo Jr. poses with CPT (Reserve)/MSG (Retired) James Burke, Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler, and his parents.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CPT (Reserve)/MSG (Retired) James Burke gives the introduction speech to the Ayuyu Battalion.

Ngalongalo joined the JROTC program in his first year of high school 9th grade and started out as a private. Then over the years he was promoted to a squad leader, platoon leader, company commander, executive officer, and now the battalion commander.

Ngalongalo said that he never expected to be in such a high position when he started the JROTC program, but with the help of his parents, fellow cadets, and instructors, he was able to achieve this accomplishment.

JROTC has motivated Ngalongalo to pursue a career in the military, specifically in the Army, and he plans to do so be applying at United States Military Academy (West Point). He knows that being in this position can help him pursue his goal.

Ngalongalo thanked his fellow cadets, the former battalion commander who taught him about the responsibilities of his new job, and his instructors CPT (Reserve)/MSG (Retired) James Burke and SFC (Retired) Giovanni Siruelo who appointed him to take on the position of Battalion commander. Also his parents Alfredo Sr. and Ma. Fe Ngalongalo that were always there to support him day and night through the years of the program. ***(PR)***

Logistics crew to prepare LibDay grounds

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2016 Liberation Day logistics crew sub committee will begin cleaning and clearing the carnival grounds starting today, May 24, to prepare for the June 10 opening of the annual festivities.

This is a joint project by the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and other supporting agencies. SMO personnel will rake and bush-cut the grounds up to the May 27, while CUC will start working on the electrical hook up beginning May 28.

SMO safety officer Mac Chargualaf said they would be coordinating with CUC in putting up the lights. CUC will start charging the organizers once all the electrical connections are completed and in place.

The electrical contractors will come in to begin working in hooking up the tents of all concessionaires that will be participating in the Liberation Day carnival. Their work is expected to last until June 5.

The CUC crew will be on stand by if assistance is needed in setting up the lights in the tent. Chargualaf said his committee would also start giving out the palettes to the concessionaires.

The vendors will be allowed to move in on June 6 where they will have at least three days to decorate and set up their tents. The trash bins and portalets will then be in place on June 9.

Four 20x40 tents, in case if it rains, and six picnic tables will be put up in one area for people who will be eating and will be watching the nightly shows. No tents will be put in front of the beer garden so customers can still watch the live entertainment.

The committee has also agreed that floats could be anything not only lowboys. They could either be a pick up truck, a trailer or any other vehicle.

The boat ramp at the fishing base, behind the fish market, will be off limits to vehicles or foot traffic on the July 4 celebration as this will be used as the landing area of the skydivers. The fireworks would be set up in the same place as last year and would last between 15 and 20 minutes.

The committee would also start sending out invitation letters to all VIPs or any foreign dignitary that would be invited to join the festivities. VIPs would need to RSVP so they would know how many would attend.

Historic Micronesian canoes make landfall in Guam

HAGATNA HARBOR, Guam—This week, four hand-carved sailing canoes landed in Guam, completing a five-day voyage across the open ocean from Yap State. This arduous trek highlights the ongoing success of Waa'gey, a Yap-based mentorship program that trains island youth in traditional canoe carving and navigation. The voyage between Yap State and Guam served to bridge both time and cultures.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Waa'gey's four hand-carved sailing canoes recently landed in Guam, completing a five-day voyage across the open ocean from Yap State.

"Waa'gey students are trained to see the value in the traditions of our ancestors," said Larry Raigetal of Lamotrek Atoll, the group's program director. "They learned to build a large sailing canoe with their own two hands, and put traditional navigation into practice on a real voyage. The old ways still work."

The canoes used were "Carolina Proas," complex all wood outriggers designed, perfected, and made famous by Micronesians over centuries. Raigetal oversaw the project, captaining one of the sleek vessels that early Spanish missionaries called, "flying props." Designing, building and navigating traditional canoes requires tremendous expertise.

Historically, Outer Islanders traded woven skirts and mats for canoes built on Yap Proper. This was part of a complex trade network spanning hundreds of miles across the Caroline Islands, Guam, and even the Marianas.

Today, the promise of healthcare, education and employment has drawn Outer Islanders to the larger, more developed islands in Micronesia. Many Micronesians have taken the further step of migrating to Guam or Hawaii, an option afforded them through the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and Micronesia.

For a decade now, Waa'gey has used mentored canoe building to help tackle contemporary social and environmental challenges across Yap State. This mission is driven by the belief that traditional values and skills have an ongoing role in teaching young people to confront modern challenges. The young men who arrived in Hagatna are a testament to Waa'gey's success.

"For thousands of years, our people have been healthy and happy on tiny island atolls," explained Raigetal. "Traditional practices taught us to use natural resources, and also protect them. Our cultures have withstood a lot of change over the centuries, but we're dealing with more outside influences than ever. We're also aware of the threat rising sea levels pose to low-lying islands. It's not a theory. It's real to us. This voyage to Guam is something the boys are quite proud of, but it's just one symbol of the hard work and challenges they face in navigating Micronesia's and their own future." ***(PR)***

Maintaining alcohol, drug-free workplace at SHRM meeting

Cris Sablan, president of the Marianas Drug Testing and Diagnostic Services, will be the guest speaker for the May meeting of the NMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Sablan will discuss with SHRM members and guests the company's mission in assisting Employers to make a commitment to provide a safe, quality-oriented and productive work environment. Sablan will be accompanied by Diego "DJ" M. Sablan, vice president and managing director, and Joseph "Joey" A. Arriola, administrative director/ consultant.

» CW-1 cap discussion also on agenda

In addition to the scheduled presentation there will also be a discussion of the recent U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announcement that the CW-1 cap has been reached and that all extensions received after May 5 will be denied and the workers and their dependents given 10 days following the expiration of their visa period. This is a serious situation. Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands representatives will be invited. Invitations will also be extended to senior government officials to hear your concerns.

The presentation portion of the May 26 program will be of special interest to all HR professionals and managers, with the speakers explaining how management efforts to develop and maintain an alcohol and drug-free workplace can be assisted by developing a policy that outlines the practices and procedures designed to correct instances of identified alcohol and drug use in the workplace. As part of its presentation, the company will discuss its approach to alcohol and drug testing in the workplace and the methodology used, and the state of the art equipment it utilizes to perform such testing. The company will further discuss the alcohol and drug testing services provided and optional services that are available, such as rehabilitative services for alcohol/drug counseling and related services with the ultimate goal of employee recovery and reinstatement into the workforce.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from 11:30am to 2pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and HR professionals and staff to better understand the testing options and management assistance available through Marianas Drug Testing and Diagnostic Services. Sablan will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes the delicious PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Pina Deleon Guerrero by e-mail at pinadlg.shrm@gmail.com or by texting 285-7462 or Penny Jones by e-mail at penny.jones@hyattsaipan.com or by telephone at 323-5868.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. TheSociety serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

DONATION TO SFA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guy F. Pudney, resident manager of MARPAC, presents a check on behalf of Budweiser to Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver on May 17, 2016, as part of the company's support toward this year's annual Mahi Derby and the upcoming 32nd Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 9-10, 2016. From left are MARPAC sales manager James Lee, Weaver, and Pudney.

319 students graduate at UOG Spring Commencement

The University of Guam celebrated the accomplishments of 319 graduates during Spring 2016 Commencement at the UOG Calvo Field House last Sunday. UOG conferred 279 undergraduate degrees and 40 graduate degrees.

Combined with the 262 graduates from Fall 2015, a total of 581 degrees were conferred in academic year 2014-2015, the most in UOG history.

The Commencement Speaker was Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. President Heine was also presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University.

Speaking on women serving in island governments, she said, "The political landscape for women in many parts of the world is changing for the better. Unfortunately, this type of change is slow to take hold in our part of the world. Only 12 percent of women are represented in the Pacific island countries' legislatures and parliaments."

"Thank you Guam for being an exception in the sense that that there are more women in Guam represented in public office than any other countries in the pacific region," she said.

Kevin Martinez, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Sociology, was named the valedictorian after breaking an unprecedented six-way tie for the top honor. Martinez offered his view of taking responsibility for one's success. "No one is holding you back. Not your friends, not your teachers, not your parents. The only one that can limit yourself is you, so don't do that," he said.

During the ceremony, Bilung Gloria G. Salii of Koror, Republic of Palau received an honorary Master of Traditional Micronesian Knowledge for her work promoting and preserving the Palauan culture. After brief remarks, she recited a traditional Palauan chant which stirred the capacity crowd in the Calvo Field House. Bilung Salii is the first woman to receive the honorary degree.

The largest number of graduates came from the UOG School of Business and Public Administration, which conferred a total of 114 degrees—96 undergraduate degrees in Business Administration, Accounting, Public Administration and Criminal Justice and 14 graduate degrees from its Master of Public Administration program.

For more on the University Spring 2016 Commencement Ceremonies, visit www.uog.edu/spring-2016-commencement. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some of the 319 graduates during Spring 2016 Commencement pose for a photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Republic of the Marshall Islands President Dr. Hilda C. Heine served as the commencement speaker of the University of Guam's 2016 Commencement Exercises last Sunday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
UOG conferred 279 undergraduate degrees and 40 graduate degrees during the 2016 Commencement Exercises.

SBDC offers another free business seminar this week

With the seminar "Export 101-Exporting your Product from CNMI to China" that had concluded yesterday, the Department of Commerce's CNMI Small Business Development Center through the Small Business Administration, offers another free business seminar "Funding Your Business through a SBA Loan" from 9am to 10am on Wednesday, May 25, at the Northern Marianas College (Room D1).

Ken Lujan, Guam SBA Branch manager, will present on starting up or expanding your business to recovering from disasters, SBA loan programs are available to help your business succeed. You can explore various types of loans that may be available at the upcoming seminar. This seminar is brought to you by the CNMI SBDC and the Northern Marianas College with the support of the Commonwealth Development Authority, CNMI Department of Commerce, and the Let's MOVE! Marianas Alliance.

Deadline to pre-register is one business day before seminar at 12pm. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required (this is on a first come, first serve basis). Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is a member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN). Its mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated islands in the western pacific by providing free one-to-one, confidential business counseling and high quality training to existing and prospective small businesses.

For more information about registering for these seminars, please contact Orrin Pharmin at orrin@pacificsbdc.com or the CNMI SBDC Office in Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018. ***(PR)***

Martinez named UOG Spring 2016 valedictorian

Biology major Kevin Malonzo Martinez knew early on where his academic journey at the University of Guam would lead him.

Encouraged by his mentor Dr. Kia Rahmani—general surgery specialist at the Guam Memorial Hospital and president of Hafa Adai Specialist Group—Martinez switched out of the nursing program and picked up minors in chemistry and sociology with the goal of medical school in the forefront of his mind.

"I know that I always wanted to do something in the medical field, but medical school is so expensive," he said, "so it seemed out of reach for me."

But it was Martinez's academic excellence and potential that eventually persuaded Rahmani to choose Martinez out of a handful of students to fully fund his tuition for medical school after finishing his undergraduate studies.

With this in mind, Martinez kept focused on his goal, which eventually led him to being named the Spring 2016 Commencement valedictorian. He was selected after breaking an unprecedented six-way tie for the top honor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kevin Martinez, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Sociology, was named the valedictorian after breaking an unprecedented six-way tie for the top honor.

"I feel very ecstatic," Martinez said. "I'm really happy about being chosen."

Martinez, who hopes to start medical school next year, said his intention is to return to Guam and practice emergency medicine. He also wants to help improve the public's perspective on medical professionals in Guam.

"People like to complain, but I've seen how hard they work," Martinez said. "I've seen how much effort they put in, and I want to come back one day and be able to help the island just like they do."

Martinez also said that without the support of his parents, peers and the faculty at the University of Guam, he wouldn't be where he is today.

"I'd really like to thank my parents for pushing me so hard," he said. "I've also met a lot of people who have impacted my life for the better. I'm really excited, but I know I didn't do it by myself."

For more on the University Spring 2016 Commencement Ceremonies, visit www.uog.edu/spring-2016-commencement. ***(PR)***

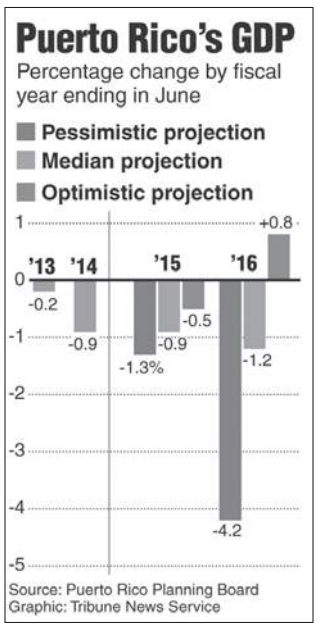
Business

Bondholders sue over Puerto Rico debt-moratorium law

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Holders of bonds from Puerto Rico's Government Development Bank are suing to challenge aspects of a debt-moratorium law that island officials say is crucial to maintaining essential services as the U.S. territory struggles under a nearly $70 billion debt load.

The amended federal lawsuit filed late Friday in the U.S. District Court in San Juan names Puerto Rico's governor and treasury secretary as well as an unidentified bank receiver. It argues that amendments to the law prioritize the rights of certain creditors at the expense of others in violation of U.S. and Puerto Rican law.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said the lawsuit's challenge of the Debt Moratorium and Financial Recovery Act could affect the commonwealth's ability to have police in the streets, teachers in the classrooms and nurses in hospitals. He said because Congress excluded Puerto Rico from the bankruptcy code in 1984 without any explanation, and the federal courts have impeded past attempts to create a local bankruptcy law, the act is the commonwealth's only option to restructure its debt.



"If the commonwealth cannot proceed with its intention to restructure the debt in an organized manner, chaotic litigation will ensue and the courts can take control of the limited resources of the government and make them available to the interests of the Wall street funds," the governor said in a written statement Saturday evening. "We are not going to close the government to pay a considerable profit to the hedge funds, who bought the bonds at a big discount after the crisis began."

The Ad Hoc Group behind the lawsuit comprises five investment funds that hold $900 million of the GDB's nearly $4 billion in outstanding debt.

The GDB defaulted on the bulk of a $423 million payment due May 1, but also announced a tentative debt-restructuring deal with the group that would offer it a recovery rate of about 50 cents on the dollar.

Let boss handle bratty subordinate

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: One of my employees consistently disregards my instructions. We work in a retail store, and "Jesse" is a cashier. Jesse frequently violates company policy by texting and playing games on his phone when he doesn't have customers. He also takes long breaks and wanders away from his register.

Because I don't have authority to issue disciplinary warnings, I asked my boss to talk with Jesse. Jesse apparently said he ignores me because I talk down to him and treat him like a child. My manager now says that when Jesse is out of line, I should only correct him once. If he fails to respond, I'm supposed to call my boss and let him handle it.

Although I agreed to try this approach, I believe this disrespectful employee should simply be told to follow my directions and do his job like everyone else. What should I do about this situation?

A: The short answer is that you should honor your manager's request, because any other response will only get you in trouble. And while I agree that backing you up would be better than taking over, this strategy may eventually work in your favor. The key is to follow your boss's directions to the letter.

When Jesse fails to comply with an instruction, do not say another word. Just quietly call your manager and transfer the problem to him. Before long, one of two things is likely to happen: Jesse will clean up his act to avoid seeing your boss, or your manager will lose patience and begin corrective action. Either way, your problem is solved.

To improve your own supervisory skills, however, you should heed Jesse's complaint that you "talk down to him and treat him like a child." When addressing performance issues, managers can easily slip into a condescending, parental mode. But since lectures seldom work, a professional, businesslike approach is usually more effective.

Q: A guy in our office frequently vents his frustrations by shouting negative comments everyone can hear. "Ben" will yell that he hopes the company goes out of business or gets hit by a natural disaster. We are all tired of Ben's outbursts, but asking him to calm down hasn't helped. Our supervisor knows about his behavior, but she hasn't taken any action. Should we inform upper management about this problem?

A: If Ben ever seems to pose a threat to people or property, someone in management should be notified immediately. But if his cranky comments are just random rants, then your supervisor is the person to contact. As a group, explain how disruptive his verbal explosions have become and request that she make them stop.

From then on, the rest of you should completely ignore Ben's tirades. Don't complain, criticize, or even look at him when he erupts. People who make dramatic emotional outbursts crave attention, so any response will only reinforce his behavior. On the other hand, if the tantrums stop producing a reaction, they may eventually disappear.

Nation

US veteran seeks asylum for Iraqi man who saved his life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After three military combat tours in warn-torn Iraq, Chase Millsap returned home to get on with a civilian life, but there was one thing he couldn't do: leave a comrade behind, certainly not one who had saved his life.

Especially not the former Iraqi military officer who, because he had worked with the Americans, was now living a precarious existence as a refugee dodging Islamic State militants seeking to kill him.

So for the past two years Millsap has been fighting a different kind of battle, one to gain asylum for the brother in arms he simply calls The Captain.

"The Captain is the epitome of my personal commitment to take care of people," said Millsap, 33, who served in the Marine Corps and upon reenlistment joined the Army and became a Green Beret.

For the time being, The Captain lives in southern Turkey, struggling to obtain refugee status in what he hopes will be the first step toward seeking permanent asylum in the United States.

"If I go back, I'm sure I die," the 37-old Muslim and married father of two said recently during an interview over Skype. He agreed to speak, but, fearing for his safety, only wanted to be identified by his former rank.

As he spoke his 3-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son played in the family's living room.

Millsap visited his friend last year at his cramped apartment, hoping he might help him expedite his refugee application.

After running into one obstacle after another—The Captain couldn't get an interview at one government office because his papers were in English, not Turkish—Millsap returned to the United States and, with a handful of other military veterans, formed the nonprofit Ronin Refugee Project.

It's dedicated to helping those who fought alongside Americans find safe harbor here or in other Western countries. After helping The Captain, they hope to turn their attention to others.

"He's one of millions that's stuck in a system that is broken and he's just gonna continue to wait," Millsap said. "And so we decided to step up, me and a few other veterans."

Clinton, Sanders duel over Latino vote in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bernie Sanders' image gazes out from a corner storefront in Boyle Heights, a Hispanic enclave known for its plump burritos and a plaza where mariachis strum guitars. It's here that his campaign is going house to house to cut into Hillary Clinton's advantage with Latino voters.

The oversized painting of the silver-haired Sanders was created by local artists. Perched in a front window, it's a centerpiece in an art gallery-turned-unofficial campaign office, where owner Mercedes Hart displays an array of T-shirts, lapel buttons—even pink underwear—bearing the Vermont senator's name.

Out front, Sanders campaign workers have set up a table to register voters and organize volunteers, who will go out to knock on doors and stuff mailboxes with campaign literature.

"I don't ever feel like I believe politicians, but I believe him," says Hart, 35, who lived for years in Mexico. Like many Sanders' devotees, she is a first-time voter, taken up by his concern for workaday Americans in an economy divided by haves and have-nots.

Visitors to her gallery are greeted by a sign above the door featuring a clenched fist and the slogan "Viva Bernie." It's just one snapshot of the tough Democratic presidential campaign playing out in the nation's largest state before the June 7 primary, even as Clinton appears to have a near-lock on the nomination.

By some estimates, Hispanics could make up as many as 2 in 10 voters in California. The contest comes on the same day as those in New Jersey and several other states, in what amounts to the finale of the 2016 primary season.

Texas police say criminals often using imitation weapons

DALLAS (AP)—Police in Texas say more crimes are being committed with imitation weapons like BB guns, likely because they're cheap, easy to obtain and criminals may believe—mistakenly—that if they're caught, they'll avoid the severe punishment that can come with illegally possessing a real one.

Police Lt. Christopher Cook in the Dallas suburb of Arlington says his officers are being told by arrested suspects of their preference for the imitation weapons. They can be purchased for as little as $25 and no background check is required.

But if the victim of a crime in Texas believes a weapon pointed at them is real, that's enough to warrant a first-degree felony charge—and a maximum sentence of life in prison. New Jersey has a similar law, though the punishment is less harsh, while others states, including California, draw a greater distinction between real and imitation weapons.

Arlington police this year have seen at least half a dozen instances where gang members were found in possession of a BB, air, toy or some other kind of imitation gun, Cook said. Officers have also responded to at least five armed robberies where the suspect was armed with one. In the most recent case, police caught a teenager Thursday night who robbed an Arlington store using an imitation handgun, he said.

Houston police say they, too, have seen a rising use of imitation weapons that peaked a couple of years ago, spokeswoman Jodi Silva said.

"They're easily accessible and they're cheap," Silva said.

John Convery with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association said he hasn't heard of many court cases involving defendants found with a fake weapon. But he noted that many Texas residents are licensed to carry handguns, so it could be life-threatening to commit a crime while brandishing a weapon, fake or real.

"If it looks like a gun and acts like a gun," he said. "The victim is going to believe it's a gun."

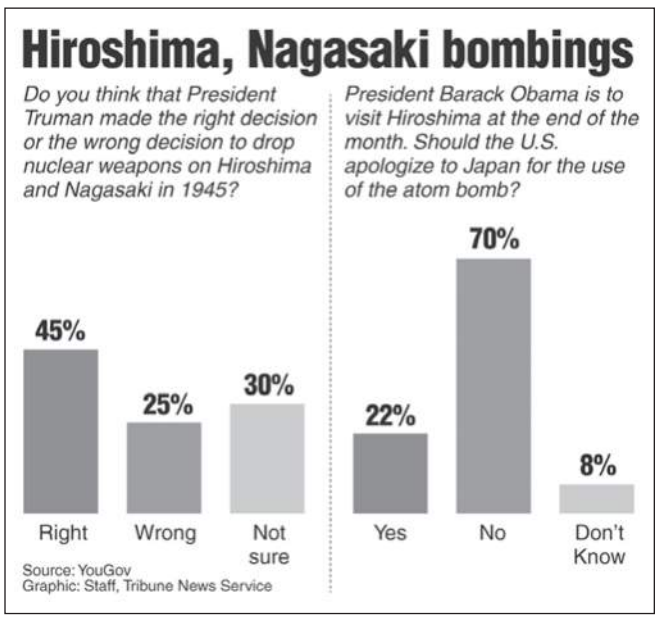
Asia

Obama's Hiroshima visit stirs differing views across Pacific

TOKYO (AP)—Two very different visions of the hell that is war are seared into the minds of World War II survivors on opposite sides of the Pacific.

Michiko Kodama saw a flash in the sky from her elementary school classroom on Aug. 6, 1945, before the ceiling fell and shards of glass from blown-out windows slashed her. Now 78, she has never forgotten the living hell she saw from the back of her father, who dug her out after a U.S. military plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan.

Lester Tenney saw Japanese soldiers killing fellow American captives on the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines in 1942. "If you didn't walk fast enough, you were killed. If you didn't say the right words you were killed, and if you were killed, you were either shot to death, bayonetted, or decapitated," the 95-year-old veteran said. He still has the bamboo stick Japanese soldiers used to beat him across the face.


Hiroshima, Nagasaki bombings
Do you think that President Truman made the right decision or the wrong decision to drop nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945?
President Barack Obama is to visit Hiroshima at the end of the month. Should the U.S. apologize to Japan for the use of the atom bomb?
45%
25%
30%
22%
70%
8%
Right
Wrong
Not sure
Yes
No
Don't Know
Source: YouGov
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Different experiences, different memories are handed down, spread by the media and taught in school. Collectively, they shape the differing reactions in the United States and Japan to Barack Obama's decision to become the first sitting American president to visit the memorial to atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima later this week.

Obama lifts arms ban in his first visit to Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday lifted a decades-old arms export embargo for Vietnam during his first visit to the communist country, looking to bolster a government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner even as he pushes for better human rights from the one-party state.

Obama announced the full removal of the embargo at a news conference, saying the move was intended to step toward normalizing relations with the former war enemy and to eliminate a "lingering vestige of the Cold War."

"At this stage both sides have developed a level of trust and cooperation," Obama said, adding that he expected deepening cooperation between the two nation's militaries.

Obama is seeking to strike this balance with Vietnam amid Chinese efforts to strengthen claims to disputed territory in the South China Sea, one of the world's most important waterways.

Lifting the arms embargo will be a psychological boost for Vietnam's leaders as they look to counter an increasingly aggressive China, but there may not be a big jump in sales. Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang thanked Obama for lifting the embargo.

U.S. lawmakers and activists had urged the president to press the communist leadership for greater freedoms before granting it. Vietnam holds about 100 political prisoners and there have been more detentions this year.

The United States partially lifted the embargo in 2014, but Vietnam wanted full access as it tries to deal with China's assertive land reclamation and military construction in nearby seas.

Vietnam has not bought anything, but removing the remaining restrictions shows relations are fully normalized and opens the way to deeper security cooperation.

Afghan leaders see Taliban leader's death as hopeful sign

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The killing of Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour in a U.S. drone strike was greeted Sunday by Kabul's political leadership as a game-changer in efforts to end the long insurgent war plaguing Afghanistan.

In a rare show of unity, President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah both welcomed the news of Mansour's death as the removal of a man who unleashed violence against innocent civilians in Afghanistan and was widely regarded as an obstacle to peace within the militant group.

Mansour, believed to be in his 50s, was killed when a U.S. drone fired on his vehicle in the southwestern Pakistan province of Baluchistan, although there were conflicting accounts whether the airstrike occurred Friday or Saturday. He had emerged as the successor to Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose 2013 death was only revealed last summer.

Mansour "engaged in deception, concealment of facts, drug-smuggling and terrorism while intimidating, maiming and killing innocent Afghans," Ghani said in a statement on his official Twitter account.

"A new opportunity presents itself to those Taliban who are willing to end war and bloodshed," he added.

Mansour was "the main figure preventing the Taliban joining the peace process," Abdullah said, speaking live on television as he chaired a Cabinet meeting. "From the day he took over the Taliban following the death of Mullah Omar, he intensified violence against ordinary citizens, especially in Afghanistan."

Ghani and Abdullah serve in a so-called national unity government brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry following a divisive 2014 election. As president and chief executive, the two rarely see eye-to-eye on even the most important decisions for a country beset by war for almost 40 years, including appointments to key security posts.

World

Egypt sends submarine to hunt for crashed plane's black boxes

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt sent a submarine Sunday to join the hunt for the flight recorders from the EgyptAir jetliner that crashed in the Mediterranean and killed all 66 people aboard, while hundreds of Coptic Christian mourners filled a church in Cairo to pray for their relatives among the dead.

Mounting evidence pointed to a sudden and dramatic catastrophe that led to Thursday's crash of Flight 804 from Paris to Cairo, although Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said it "will take time" to establish what happened aboard the Airbus A320.

In his first public comments since the crash, el-Sissi cautioned against premature speculation.

"It is very, very important to us to establish the circumstances that led to the crash of that aircraft," el-Sissi said in remarks broadcast live on Egyptian TV. "There is not one scenario that we can exclusively subscribe to. ... All scenarios are possible."

A submarine belonging to the Oil Ministry was headed to the site about 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of the Egyptian port of Alexandria to join the search, el-Sissi said. The vessel can operate at a depth of 3,000 meters (9,800 feet), he said.

After starting his comments with a minute of silence to remember the victims, he thanked the nations that have joined Egyptian ships and aircraft in the search.

Beside Egypt, ships and planes from Britain, Cyprus, France, Greece and the United States are taking part in the search for the debris from the aircraft, including its flight data and cockpit voice recorders. Some wreckage, including human remains, have been recovered already.

Egypt's aviation industry has been under international scrutiny since Oct. 31, when a Russian Airbus A321 traveling to St. Petersburg from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh crashed in the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people aboard. Russia said the crash was caused by a bomb planted on the plane, and the local branch of the Islamic State claimed responsibility, citing Moscow's involvement in Syria.

Iraq launches operation to retake IS-held city of Fallujah

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the beginning of military operations to retake the Islamic State-held held city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, in a televised address on Sunday night.

Iraqi forces are "approaching a moment of great victory" against the Islamic State group, said al-Abadi, who was surrounded by top military commanders from the Ministry of Defense and the country's elite counterterrorism forces.

However, Iraqi forces are expected to face a complicated fight to push IS out of Fallujah, which is about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, and has been under the militants' control for more than two years.

Asked about the Iraqi announcement on plans to retake Falliujah, the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon did not immediately comment.

During the Iraq War, Fallujah was an insurgent stronghold and the site of the bloodiest battle of the Iraq War. In November 2004, U.S. forces led a coalition attack against several thousand insurgents in Fallujah in which thousands of buildings were destroyed in house-to-house fighting. More than 80 U.S. troops were killed along with an estimated 2,000 insurgents.

Al-Abadi's announcement comes at a time when Iraqi ground forces backed by U.S.-led coalition air support are gaining territory against IS, most recently in Iraq's vast western Anbar province.

Last week. Iraqi forces pushed IS out of the western town of Rutba, located 240 miles (380 kilometers) west of Baghdad, on the edge of Anbar province. Last month, Iraqi forces cleared territory along Anbar's Euphrates river valley after the provincial capital Ramadi was declared fully liberated earlier this year.

Fallujah is still home to tens of thousands of civilians and has been under IS rule since January 2014, longer than any other territory recently retaken by Iraqi forces. Iraqi security forces repeated calls for civilians trapped inside Fallujah to flee on Sunday, but residents say that checkpoints controlled by the extremists along all roads leading out of the city are preventing most from fleeing.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN: Bus crash in Congo kills at least 37 people, injures 22

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—A United Nations-backed radio station in Congo says at least 37 people have been killed and 22 injured in a bus crash. Radio Okapi reported Saturday that the bus carrying 70 passengers from Zambia got a flat tire, ran into something and caught fire. The accident Friday occurred in southeast Congo in Sakania territory near the border with Zambia. It said the bus was traveling about 500 kilometers (310 miles) from the Zambian village of Kitwe to Luapula province, using a dirt road that cuts through part of Congo as a shortcut. Radio Okapi reported that Zambian rescue workers are at the scene and the injured have been evacuated to medical centers. Many roads in Congo are unpaved and poorly maintained.

Colombia military searching for missing Spanish journalist

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia's military has launched a search for a Spanish journalist amid media reports she went missing in a lawless area dominated by leftist rebels and drug-trafficking groups. Salud Hernandez-Mora is longtime correspondent in Colombia for Spain's El Mundo and an influential columnist for the Bogota daily El Tiempo. El Tiempo said Sunday that she was on assignment in El Tarra in the volatile Catatumbo region of northern Colombia when she went missing. Witnesses told the newspaper that she was last seen Saturday arguing with an unidentified man before taking a motorcycle to an unknown destination. The town's mayor said it is possible she was taken hostage. President Juan Manuel Santos' office said he is closely monitoring the military's search.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: With 2017 Ridgeline, Honda produces ultimate tailgating truck

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I admit I am not a guy who tailgates. The redesigned 2017 Honda Ridgeline, however, might change all that.

Don't believe me? I don't blame you.

Despite winning a pair of major awards when it debuted in 2005, the Ridgeline's sales peaked at 50,193 the following year before sinking to a mere 13,389 units in 2014. Comparatively, Toyota sold 75,149 Tacomas that year.

"The styling wasn't for everybody," said Kerry McClure, chief engineer for the 2017 Ridgeline. "It was a little bit polarizing, a little bit odd."

No kidding.

Its eccentric appearance affected sales, causing Honda to hesitate before deciding to approve a second-generation Ridgeline. But it was given a green light, and not a moment too soon. U.S. demand for midsize pickups grew 16 percent through April of this year, outpacing a market sales increase of 3.3 percent.

Nevertheless, the 2017 Ridgeline should erase any memories of its nonconformist predecessor, with a conventional appearance anchored by a front fascia that recalls the Honda Pilot. Its new duds trade the overwrought machismo of its competition for a refined, upscale allure that casts it as a thinking person's truck. After all, it shares its platform—and about 50 percent of its parts—with the redesigned Pilot crossover, although the Ridgeline's parts are beefed up for its more demanding role. Even so, its ride and handling are every bit as carlike and comfortable, while its roomy cabin boasts generous room for five.

But it's the back of the truck that will change my pregame habits, namely a new 400-watt power inverter and an in-bed audio system. The first can power a flat-screen TV or other device, and is available on upper trim levels in place of what is otherwise an in-bed storage compartment on lower trim levels. The second is a bit more unique. Each of the Ridgeline's three sidewalls have exciters mounted behind them, much like a speaker magnet is affixed to a speaker cone. These transform the sidewalls into audio speakers. And yes, the system is waterproof. Best of all, the dual action tailgate and 7.3 cubic-foot in-bed trunk returns with a newly flat floor and drain plug, so it can hold even more of your favorite chilled beverages.

TNS

The 2017 Honda Ridgeline has all of the benefits of a midsize pickup with none of the compromises, making the ultimate tailgaiting truck.

TNS

The 2017 Honda Ridgeline's dual action tailgate and 7.3 cubic-foot in-bed trunk returns with a newly flat floor and drain plug, so it can hold even more of your favorite chilled beverages.

Clearly, this is easily the ultimate tailgating pickup. Ridgeline? They should have called it the Partyline. And wait till you drive it; more merrymaking looms.

The Ridgeline returns with all-wheel drive, although front-wheel drive is available for the first time. A 3.5-liter single-overhead-cam V-6 engine that generates 280 horsepower and 262 pound-feet of torque through a six-speed automatic transmission powers all seven trim levels.

Opting for front-wheel drive limits towing to 3,500 pounds, but returns fuel economy of 19 mpg with city driving and 26 mpg on the highway. All-wheel drive models can tow 5,000 pounds, although fuel economy falls 1 mpg. All Ridgelines are equipped with a standard transmission cooler, high capacity radiator fans, and a trailer hitch with 7-pin coupler, so there's no optional trailer-towing package to buy.

If these numbers seem low, guess again. Company research shows that 95 percent of midsize trucks are used for on-road commuting. Fewer than 3 percent of midsize truck buyers tow, and of those buyers, fewer than six percent haul more than 5,000 pounds.

Leaving the most extreme buyers to other automakers allows Honda free to produce the industry's most refined and fun-to-drive midsize pickup. The engine and transmission respond smoothly and speedily, but remain unassuming — like a good servant. You can drive it aggressively without the suspension histrionics typical of pickup trucks. The ride remains calmly absorbent yet taut. Credit for being able to pilot this pickup like Richard Petty goes to the platform's redesigned independent suspension as well as its increased rigidity. Their effect becomes apparent once tromping off-road.

Of course, if you're just hauling stuff home from a big box store, you'll appreciate the rear seat's ability to hold a flat screen TV or a bicycle. Out back, its 64-inch bed is longer than the crew-cab Toyota Tacoma or short-bed Chevrolet Colorado. Better yet, 4-by-8 sheets of drywall or plywood fit between the Ridgeline's wheel wells.

Finally, you'll be happy to know that the new Ridgeline has the usual blizzard of technology, including Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, USB plugs and Honda Sensing.

But unless you need more towing capacity or an extreme boulder basher, there's no reason to ignore the 2017 Honda Ridgeline. It has all of the benefits of a midsize pickup with none of the compromises. And its price seems reasonable given its competition.

It makes for a really sweet tailgating partner. This summer, you'll know where to find me.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: $29,475-$42,870
- Engines: SOHC 3.5-liter V-6
- Horsepower: 280
- Torque: 262 pound-feet
- Fuel type: Regular
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 19/26 (FWD); 18/25 (AWD)
- Wheelbase: 125.2 inches
- Length: 210 inches
- Payload (FWD/AWD): 1,465/1,584 pounds
- Towing (FWD/AWD): 3,500/5,000 pounds
- Curb weight: 4,242-4,515 pounds
- NHTSA rating: Not rated

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Benjamin Joseph Salas Delos Reyes

Loving Known as "Ben"
January 21, 1963-May 19, 2016

In his new life he now joins his:
Father: †Vicente Pangelinan Delos Reyes
Paternal Grandfather: †Pedro C. Delos Reyes
†Pablo V. Delos Reyes
Paternal Grandmother: †Josepha P. Delos Santos
Maternal Grandfather: †Juan R. Salas
Maternal Grandmother: †Carmen T. Salas
Brothers In-Law: †Francisco C. Aldan
†Jesus A. Sasamoto
Sisters In-Law: †Eleanor B. Delos Reyes
†Genevieve T. Farañal
Grand Nephew: †Manuel Juan D. Delos Reyes

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: **Ana Lisa Farañal Delos Reyes**
Mother: Maria Taitano Salas Delos Reyes
Parents In-Law: Saturnino Novilla Farañal
Estela Tataguin Farañal

Children and Grand Children:
Lonny Ann DLR & Jonathan Joe N. Aguon (Shania Jean)
Kimberly DLR & Cristin S.Duenas, Jr.
Sharon DLR & Edward Joseph B. Dela Cruz
Sheryl S. DLR & Michael Vincent A. Concepcion
(Damien Michael and Jaden Vincent)
Crystal Ann F. Delos Reyes

Brothers, Sisters & Spouses
Bernadita DLR Aldan
Julia DLR Sasamoto
Pedro S. & Carmelita B. Delos Reyes
Agnes DLR & Jesus A. Mendiola
Juan S. & Dalisay O. Delos Reyes
Diana Delos Reyes Kaluu
Barbara DLR & Beltram L. Aguon
Paul Anthony S. & Esther B. Delos Reyes
Jessie Raymond S. Delos Reyes & Tammy S. Pangelinan
Mary Elaine DLR & Beltran S. Palacios
Vincent George S. Delos Reyes & Vicky Celis
Ginna Mae DLR & Frank Troy
Melissa Norma DLR & Frank M. Palacios Jr.

Brothers In Law, Sisters In Law & Spouses
Rolando T. & Lilibeth S.Farañal
Virginia F. & Eleseo Sanchez
Lilia T. Farañal
Levie T. & Emirose L. Farañal
Marion T. Farañal
Fernan T. & Rodalyn Farañal
Johnny T. & Jocelyn S. Farañal

He is also survived by Sonia Saranglao Delos Reyes

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at San Vicente Church each evening at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary. On Wednesday, May 25th, Mass will be celebrated at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary Oratory in Dandan at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, May 27, 2016. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:30 am to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.
Please join us in prayers.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

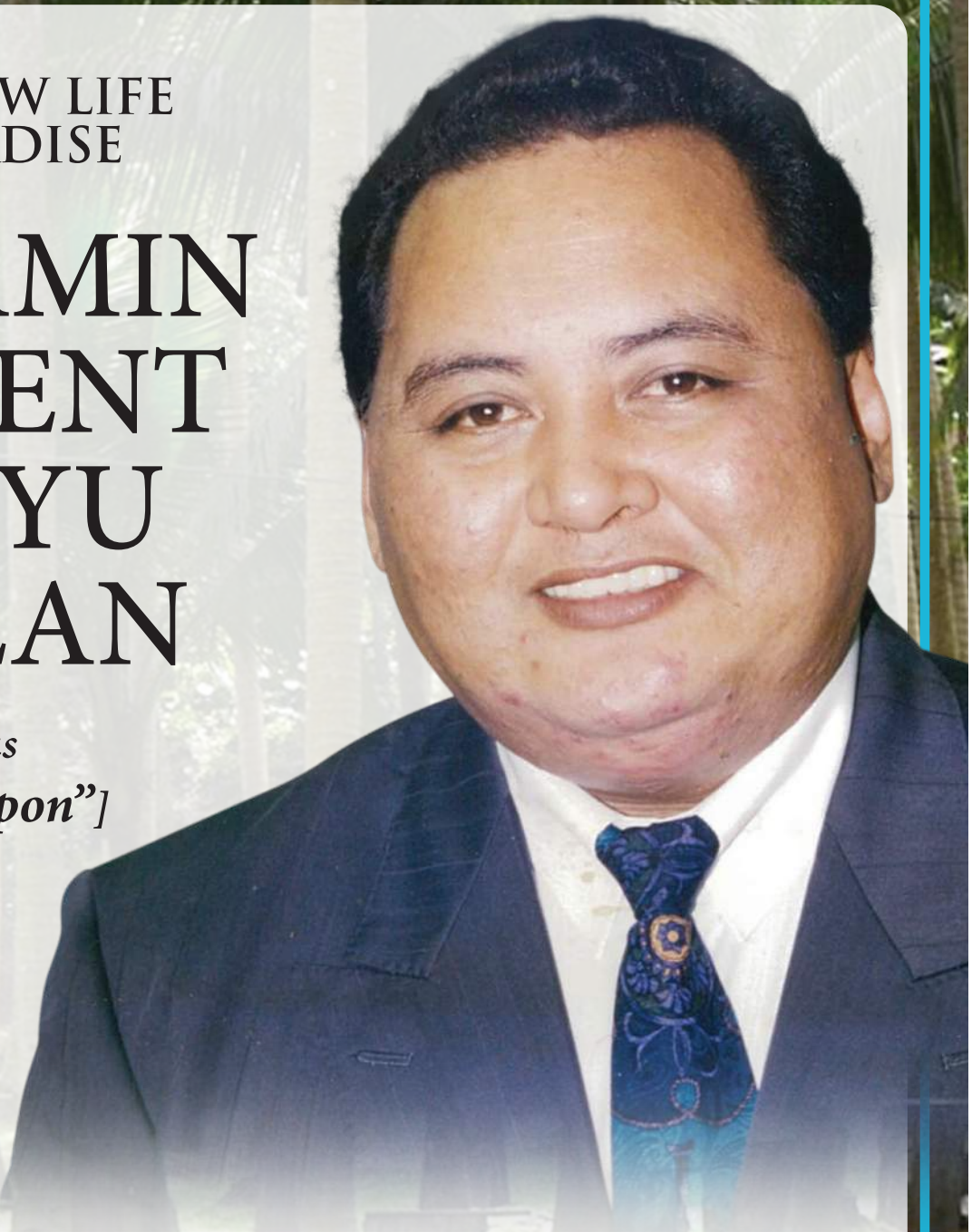
The Family

TO MY NEW LIFE
IN PARADISE

BENJAMIN VINCENT AYUYU SABLAN

[Lovingly known as
"Ben" or "Ben Kappon"]

was born on
January 2, 1959
and answered our
Lord's call to begin
his new life in
Paradise on
May 16, 2016.



Ben's strong family ties, his inspiration, pleasant personality, laughter, jokes, commitment and dedication, and most especially his love will forever be in the heart of his daughter ***Kimberly Crystal Songsong Sablan and Oscar Padilla Mejia (Benjamin Joerone, Ian Antonio, Sophia Josephine).*** These memories will also be instilled in the hearts of his mother, ***Ana Ayuyu Sablan***; his siblings and their families, ***George A.***/Dolores B. Sablan (Charlene/Jacob Luii; George B./Clarence Sablan; Carmen Anne; Doralyn S./Rodney Tenorio; Cecile S./Elmer Diaz; Caroline); ***Jesus E. Lagadia*** (Jennifer S. Cavanaugh; Vincent Sablan/Sanivette Babauta; Maryann L./Sherman Santos); ***Belinda S.***/John C. Tenorio (John Vincent; Annalyn; Marlayna; Ashley); ***Elizabeth S.***/Joe Atalig & family; ***Noreen A. Sablan*** & family; ***Melvin Sablan*** & daughter; ***Bill James Sablan***/Charlotte Villagomez & family; his mother in-law ***Maria Babauta Songsong;*** his brothers and sisters-in-law ***Jose B.***/Maria M. Songsong (Annmarie Songsong/Oscar Quitugua; Roger; Carlene Songsong/Jose Pinaula; Vincent); ***Manuel B.***/Fairie Songsong (Carol S./Frank Demapan; Camille); ***Ricardo B.***/Carmel R. Songsong (Georgia Salas/Calvin Yamagishi; Jason; Joshua; Kianna); ***Joaquin B.***/Nancy Songsong (Crystal Songsong/Donald Siedler; Andrew Jon/Kathy Songsong); ***Francisco B.***/Maryann S. Songsong (Francisco, Jr.; Michelle Songsong/Jermaine Barcinas; Francine Songsong/James Toves; Kyle Songsong/Oceana Aldan); ***Diego B.***/Maryjane Songsong (Jacqueline; Kurt; Sheila; Gilbert); ***Maryann S.***/John You (Bernadette Sheleen); ***Patricia B. Songsong*** (Keo Delos Santos/Ana Manglona; Austin; Simon; Blaise; Chayanne; Keanu; Chantielle, Joseph Jr.) and Special Friend ***Melinda Regis***.

Ben is greeted at Heaven's gate and jubilantly joins his wife †***Josephine Lillian Songsong Sablan***; his father †***Herman Atalig Sablan***; his sister †***Frances Sablan Lagadia***; his father-in-law ***Vicente Ayuyu Songsong*** and his grandparents †***Benigno Olupomar*** & †***Consolacion Atalig Sablan***; †***Vicente Ayuyu*** & †***Francisca Mendiola Ayuyu***; †***Rainaldo A. &*** †***Maria Songsong Manglona***.

Ben's concern for others, especially those whom he crossed path with, his generosity and his openness to assist those in need, rewarded him of the friendship he gained throughout his lifetime. His memories will forever be remembered by his many aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces, godchildren and their parents, classmates, and his numerous friends.

Visitation and last respects are welcomed on ***Wednesday, May 25, 2016 beginning at 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.*** Interment services to follow immediately at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest with his wife, †***Josephine***.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

KIMBERLY CRYSTAL SONGSONG SABLAN & FAMILY
ANA AYUYU SABLAN & FAMILY
VICENTE A. & MARIA B. SONGSONG & FAMILY

Life & Style

'Angry Birds' flocks to No. 1 over 'Neighbors,' 'Nice Guys'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Captain America" has found a worthy competitor in a bunch of flightless birds. "The Angry Birds Movie" soared to $39 million in its debut weekend, knocking "Captain America: Civil War" off its first-place perch, while new adult comedies "Neighbors 2" and the "The Nice Guys" struggled to get their footing, according to comScore estimates Sunday.

Rovio Animation spearheaded the production of "The Angry Birds Movie," which cost around $73 million to make, and it opened strong internationally last weekend. The film has already earned $150 million worldwide, according to estimates from Sony, which is distributing the film.

"The Angry Birds Movie" features the voices of Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad and Danny McBride and has received mixed reviews from critics in its attempt to create a compelling story out of a fairly simplistic app-based game. But audiences under 25 gave the film an A CinemaScore, which should help the film continue to perform well over Memorial Day weekend.

"It's very difficult turning a video-game property into a successful movie," said Josh Greenstein, Sony's president of worldwide marketing and distribution. "To use a bad pun, we are flying high."

AP

This image released by Sony Pictures shows the character Red, voiced by Jason Sudeikis, in a scene from "The Angry Birds Movie."

Video-game adaptations have not had the best track record, but comScore's Senior Media Analyst Paul Dergarabedian notes that the success of "Angry Birds" likely has more to do with its family appeal and ingrained brand recognition.

"Families are always looking for out-of-the-home content," Dergarabedian said, noting also that this is the latest in a string of very successful PG-rated films including "The Jungle Book" and "Zootopia."

"PG is the hot new rating now. There used to be a stigma that younger teens wouldn't be interested," he said. "The numbers prove that when you go after the broadest base possible, you can be highly successful."

The PG-13 rated "Captain America: Civil War" wasn't too far behind, earning an additional $33.1 million this weekend for a second-place spot, which brings its domestic total to $347.4 million. And, even in its third weekend in theaters, the superhero proved mightier than a fresh batch of R-rated comedies, "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising" and "The Nice Guys," both of which underwhelmed in their debuts.

"Neighbors 2" brought in only $21.8 million—less than half of the first film's $49 million opening in 2014. But the film from director Nick Stoller also cost only $35 million to make.

"We're really proud of 'Neighbors 2'," said Nick Carpou, Universal's President of Domestic Distribution. "We're not just out there trying to go to the bank on something. It really is a different take."

Stars Seth Rogen, Rose Byrne and Zac Efron all returned for the sequel, which puts a new spin on the frat next door idea by having the young family's new neighbors be a sorority comprised of girls upset about the unequal rules for fraternities and sororities.

The R-rated 70s-set buddy comedy "The Nice Guys," meanwhile, grossed $11.3 million for a fourth-place spot. Warner Bros. handled the domestic distribution for the Shane Black-directed film, which stars Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe. It has been very well-received by critics, but it seemed to fly under the radar on this crowded weekend.

While the comedy openings might be less than hoped for, both could still provide decent counterprogramming to the spectacle-driven films opening on Memorial Day weekend, when mega productions "X-Men: Apocalypse," which made $103.3 million internationally this weekend, and "Alice Through the Looking Glass" take over.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Angry Birds Movie,"** $39 million *($55.5 million international).*
2. **"Captain America: Civil War,"** $33.1 million *($30.7 million international).*
3. **"Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising,"** $21.8 million *($6 million international).*
4. **"The Nice Guys,"** $11.3 million.
5. **"The Jungle Book,"** $11 million *($7.4 million international).*
6. **"Money Monster,"** $7.1 million *($2.8 million international).*
7. **"The Darkness,"** $2.4 million.
8. **"Zootopia,"** $1.7 million *($4.7 million international).*
9. **"The Huntsman: Winter's War,"** $1.2 million *($610,000 international).*
10. **"Mother's Day,"** $1.1 million *($485,000 international).*

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **"X-Men: Apocalypse,"** $103.3 million.
2. **"The Angry Birds Movie,"** $55.5 million.
3. **"Captain America: Civil War,"** $30.7 million.
4. **"The Wailing,"** $11.1 million.
5. **"The Divergent Series: Allegiant,"** $11 million.
6. **"The Jungle Book,"** $7.4 million.
7. **"Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising,"** $6 million.
8. **"Zootopia,"** $4.7 million.
9. **"Night Peacock,"** $3.9 million.
10. **"Money Monster," $2.8 million.**

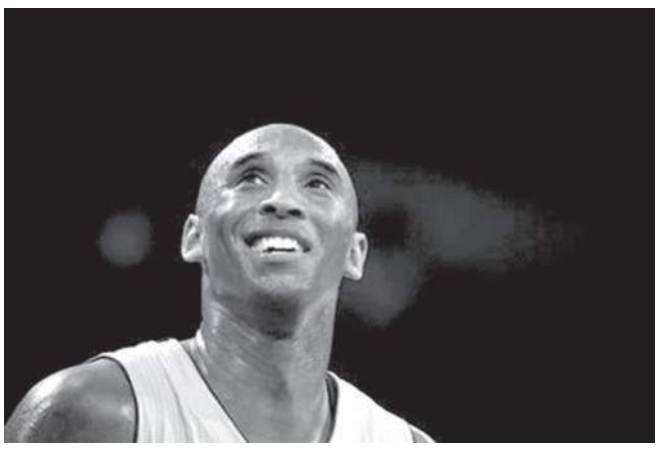
Entering Hollywood, Kobe Bryant gets advice from Spielberg

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Kobe Bryant is getting advice from Steven Spielberg, J.J. Abrams and Jerry Bruckheimer as he redirects his competitive drive from professional basketball to his publishing and production company.

One month after retiring from the NBA, the Los Angeles Lakers star has a new daily routine. "I get up early and I train and I work out. Then I go to the office," Bryant said in an interview.

He spends much of his day "kicking around ideas" with his staff of 10 full-time employees at Newport Beach, California-based Kobe Inc.—and calls up those Hollywood heavyweights for guidance.

"I mean those are like unfair advantages," Bryant said, laughing. "I can pick up the phone and speak to them and ask them questions: 'What do you think about the story? What is this missing?' And they'll nitpick every single detail and I love it."



AP

In this April 13, 2016 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward Kobe Bryant smiles during the first half of Bryant's last NBA basketball game, against the Utah Jazz in Los Angeles

"They respect and appreciate what I've done for 20 years as I respect and appreciate what they've done over the years. And we understand that there is a unifying force between those two things," Bryant said. "Even though the disciplines are different, the commitment, attention to detail is absolutely the same. So even though Steven Spielberg can start speaking in film language and I won't understand a damn thing, I understand the core, the essence of what he's saying."

Bryant said his Kobe Studios also includes seven more people who have been working on a project for the past two years, and another team of five writers starting a new project shortly. The company is now making a three-to-five minute film based on the "Dear Basketball" poem that Bryant used to announce his retirement, led by longtime Disney animator Glen Keane and featuring music from John Williams.

On Wednesday, Bryant was focused on one of his more familiar roles—as pitchman. He attended a ribbon-cutting at a Hublot watch store in Beverly Hills, California and modeled his third signature watch with the luxury brand, the HeroVillain. Its retail price: $20,400.

The watch's name, like the April Nike ad in which he conducted a symphony of hatred from players and fans, embraces Bryant's dark side.

"You have to be true to who you are," Bryant said.

"Throughout my career, I've been able to take dark times and dark emotions and channel those feelings to create something better," he said. "It's not something that I shy away from. We all have things that motivate us. Sometimes you can push those things to the side, make it fester within you. Or you can choose to use them to create something better."

Justin Bieber fans march in Argentina in support of pop idol

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Hundreds of "Beliebers" are marching in Argentina's capital to ask that authorities let the Canadian pop idol perform in the South American country.

Justin Bieber said Monday on his Twitter account that he would like to play in Argentine on his Purpose Tour but "until the legal conditions change there I can't."

The singer, whose fans are called "Beliebers," is embroiled in a judicial case here, accused of allegedly sending bodyguards to attack a photographer outside a Buenos Aires nightclub during a 2013 visit.

On Saturday, hundreds of his fans marched in central Buenos Aires carrying signs saying "Argentina Needs Justin" and "Right To Music."

One of the demonstrators said if the judge in the case "has a heart" he will let Bieber perform in Argentina.

Tamar Braxton suddenly exits 'The Real' after 2 seasons

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tamar Braxton is no longer part of "The Real." The singer and television personality has exited the syndicated talk show after serving as a co-host for two seasons, according to a joint statement from Braxton and the show's producers Sunday.

The statement says that the decision was mutual and that Braxton intends to focus on her solo career.

Braxton was part of a five-person group on the show, including Loni Love, Adrienne Bailon, Jeannie Mai and Tamera Mowry-Housley. "The Real" has been nominated for multiple Daytime Emmy Awards and has already been renewed for two more seasons.

It was not specified whether or not Braxton will be replaced for "The Real's" third season.

Madonna, Stevie Wonder pay homage to Prince at Billboard

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Madonna paid homage to Prince by wearing his signature color and bringing another icon—Stevie Wonder—on stage to sing the classic "Purple Rain" at Sunday's Billboard Music Awards.

Sitting atop a purple throne, Madonna kicked off the tribute with a version of "Nothing Compares 2 U," which Prince wrote and Sinead O'Connor recorded. She as teary-eyed as she sang the song, videos and photos of Prince projected behind her.

Wonder, in a purple scarf, later joined her for "Purple Rain" as the audience at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas sang along.

"Most of all, thank you Prince Rogers Nelson for all that you've given us," Madonna said after the performance.

Prince died on April 21 at age 57. The icons collaborated on "Love Song" in 1989 and Madonna was met with criticism online when Billboard announced she would be the one to pay homage to The Purple One. Some felt she should not do the tribute alone, and others said a black artist should be involved.

"All of us live in the land of music and his departure was an earthquake," Roots drummer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson said before the performance. "I just want to take a moment to remember the great Prince Rogers Nelson."

The Weeknd, the night's big winner with eight, dedicated an award to Prince and told the audience, "I love him so much. I didn't know him, but he was so close to me. He will always be an inspiration." However, The Weeknd lost the night's big award—top artist—to Adele, who didn't attend the show because she's on tour.

AP
Stevie Wonder, left, and Madonna perform a tribute to Prince at the Billboard Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena on Sunday, May 22, 2016, in Las Vegas.7

Celine Dion and Kesha, both in the midst of drama in their personal lives, gave emotional performances during the three-hour show.

Dion sang Queen's "The Show Must Go On" in strong form, sporting a shiny dress and backed by a powerful orchestra. Dion lost her husband and brother in the same week in January, and her son presented her with the Billboard icon award after her performance.

"I'm so sorry. I'm sorry for crying. I want to be so strong for my family and kids ... I don't want to cry in front of you," a teary Dion said to Rene-Charles Angelil.

Dion said her late husband Rene Angelil will "continue to watch over me from up above."

Kesha sang a heart-wrenching cover of Bob Dylan's "It Ain't Me Babe." She stood still in a cream suit and was backed by a pianist and violinist, hitting all the right notes and growing teary-eyed near the end.

She earned a standing ovation from the audience—a welcome response after the performance was initially nixed by her former mentor, Dr. Luke. The hit-making producer and his record label gave Kesha the OK to perform after she said she would not use the stage to discuss their ongoing lawsuit. They have been at odds since she accused of him of drugging, sexually abusing and emotionally tormenting her.

Other performances were not as strong: Justin Bieber sang his hits "Company" and "Sorry" with the help of a backing track as bright laser lights beamed throughout the performance. He walked from side to side, performing a few dance moves but didn't match the energy of his backup dancers. Britney Spears—clearly lip syncing—kicked off the show in a shimmery red number with a performance that featured several of her hits, from "I'm a Slave 4 U" and "Toxic."

Jaclyn Jose becomes 1st Filipino to win Cannes best actress

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Veteran actress Jaclyn Jose has become the first Filipino to win the best actress award at the Cannes Film Festival for her performance in "Ma' Rosa" as a mother who falls prey to corrupt police after she was forced to sell drugs to survive.

The movie was directed by Brillante Mendoza, who in 2009 became the first Filipino to win best director at the festival for "Kinatay."

"I am so surprised. I just went to have the red carpet walk with my daughter, my real-life daughter and my daughter in the movie also," Jose said as she accepted the award Sunday, referring to her daughter Andi Eigenmann. "To Cannes, thank you so much, thank you to the jury, thank you that you liked our film."

The actress, who had appeared in previous films by Mendoza, said she was sharing the award with her director, her daughter and the cast of the film, as well as all Filipinos.

ABS-CBN network reported that Jose beat big-name actresses including Charlize Theron, Kristen Stewart and Marion Cotillard.

"Ma' Rosa" is about a mother of four who owns a small convenience store in a poor neighborhood of Manila. To make ends meet, Rosa and her husband resell small amounts of illegal drugs on the side. When they get arrested, she and her children become desperate and are ready to do anything to buy her freedom from corrupt police.

Mendoza told a news conference in Cannes prior to the award ceremony that the movie was based on a true story and his personal experience with a main character of the film four years ago.

AP
Actress Jaclyn Jose poses for photographers after winning the Best Actress award for the film Ma'Rosa, during the photo call following the awards ceremony at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 22, 2016.

The director, who has become known for tackling dark social issues in his films, said, "It happened, that's why it has to be told."

"As an artist, as a filmmaker, you have to share it with the rest of the world for them to realize and also for them to think about it, that such situation should not happen," he added.

Funding for cancer sufferer seems brazen to co-worker

DEAR ABBY: A coworker has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. She's not sure how long she may have. She is relatively young, so it's tragic. We have excellent insurance from work, national health care and disability insurance.

Another co-worker sent out an email with a link to a crowdfunding site as well as an invitation to a party selling products. The proceeds will be donated to fulfilling a "cancer bucket list," which includes pampering, trips and other luxuries.

I sympathize with anyone having a terminal illness, but why does that mean I have to give money? Do they have a right to be pampered on other people's dime?

This kind of fundraising, without real financial need, seems to happen often: Coworkers who have had accidents, fires, unexpected or stressful incidents all have office collections set up, even when they are fully insured and the damage is covered by their policies. A friend (or Human Resources) contacts everyone who has had even a passing interaction with the individual and solicits donations.

I am happy to write letters and notes to people I know are having a hard time. I visit with closer friends and may bring a meal or flowers to their home. But people I've spent only a few hours of my life with asking for money for luxuries seems nervy to me. Am I a tightwad, or is a financial donation necessary to express condolences?

TIGHTWAD IN CANADA

DEAR TIGHTWAD: Because you receive a solicitation does not mean you are obligated to respond to it. (Unless the "solicitor" is holding a gun, in which case I would advise you not to argue.) Whether to make a donation for something like this is your CHOICE, and if you choose not to join in, you should not feel—or be made to feel—guilty if you decline.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married in June. Her father—my ex—has let her know she must invite his new wife's parents to the wedding. They are drinkers, and have in the past been very rude to my daughter. She has no relationship at all with them and doesn't want them at her wedding. She is aware that this will cause hard feelings with her stepmother and her father.

My soon-to-be son-in-law called me asking for advice. I said maybe they should be invited to keep peace in the family, but my daughter is very upset at the idea of having these people around on her "special day." Any advice?

WEDDING INVITE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WEDDING INVITE: Your ex-husband's new in-laws are not related to your daughter and do not appear to have made an effort to befriend her. Because of that, I see no reason why they "must" be invited, unless your ex is footing the bill for the wedding.

If this is the case, and the wedding is a large one, the couple could be seated "in Siberia," which might be a less than satisfactory, but workable, solution. (Why they would insist on coming under these circumstances, I can't say, but some people will do almost anything for a free dinner.)

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

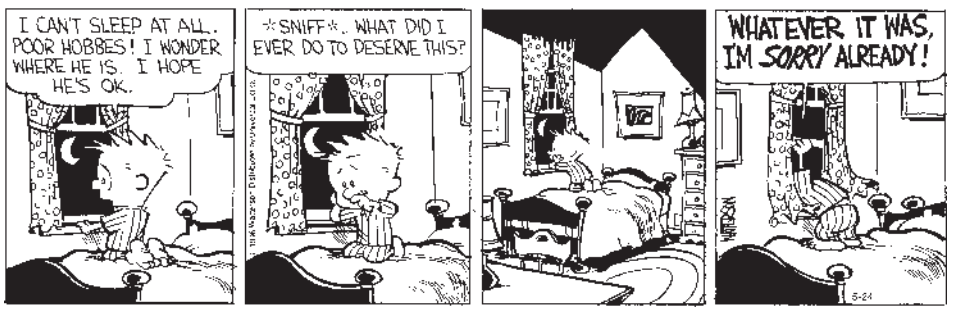
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T SLEEP AT ALL. POOR HOBBES! I WONDER WHERE HE IS. I HOPE HE'S OK.
SNIFF. WHAT DID I EVER DO TO DESERVE THIS?
WHATEVER IT WAS, IM SORRY ALREADY!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

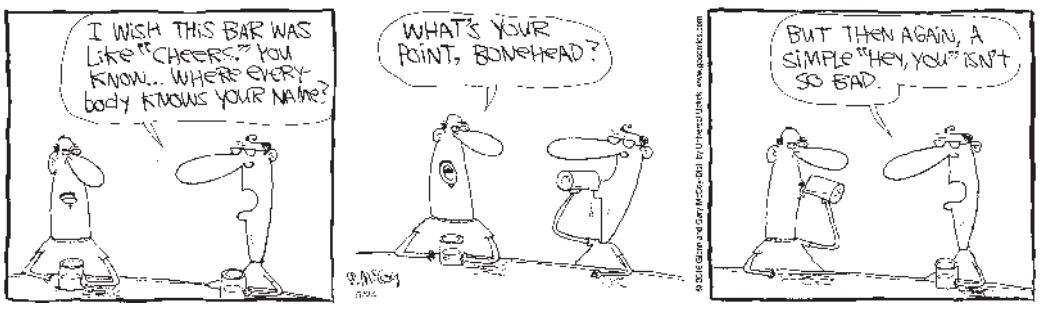
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ARE YOU STILL UP FOR HELPING ME IN THE GARDEN TODAY?
YEP. JUST REMEMBER I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A GREEN THUMB.
REMEMBER MY LAST PLANTING FAILURE?
AGAIN, ME MS AREN'T SEEDS.
I STILL THINK I JUST NEEDED BETTER TOP-SOIL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I WISH THIS BAR WAS LIKE "CHEERS." YOU KNOW... WHERE EVERY-BODY KNOWS YOUR NAME?
WHAT'S YOUR POINT, BONEHEAD?
BUT THEN AGAIN, A SIMPLE "HEY, YOU" ISN'T SO BAD.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Get ready, briefly
5 Ginormous
8 Pulverize potatoes
12 Blood (Pref.)
13 Equi-
14 Tennis legend Arthur
15 "What's — for me?"
16 Salad ingredient
18 Salad ingredient
20 Trig terms
21 Ordinal suffix
22 Mode lead-in
23 Bamboo eater
26 Salad ingredient
30 "A pox upon thee!"
31 "See ya!"
32 Expert
33 Salad ingredient
36 Skin
38 Bottom line
39 Epoch
40 Worship
43 Salad ingredient
47 Salad ingredient
49 Columbo portrayer Peter
50 Willy Wonka's creator
51 I love (Lat.)
52 Wrinkled fruit
53 Satiate
54 Feminine side
55 Low-fat

DOWN

1 Dr. McGraw
2 Artist Magritte
3 Send forth
4 Like most houseplants
5 Canoe material
6 "Got it"
7 Pantheon member
8 Fanatic
9 Z — zebra
10 Pump, e.g.
11 Coop group
17 Norway's capital
19 Actress Hagen
22 "Hail, Caesar!"
23 USMC rank
24 Tire filler
25 Prefix with natal
26 Writer Rand
27 Mimic
28 ER workers
29 Sound of delight
31 Automaton, for short
34 Disobedient
35 Abound
36 To and —
37 Legal
39 Noted 2001 bankruptcy
40 Outlet letters
41 Two-way
42 Twice cuatro
43 Big rig
44 Leaf
45 Jazzy Fitzgerald
46 Related
48 Inlet

Solution time: 22 mins.

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_	E	A	T	■	M	I	A	■	S	I	R	I
M	A	R	A	■	P	U	D	D	Y	T	A	T
S	U	B	D	U	E	■	U	I	L	A	I	E
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C	U	D	D	L	I	N	G	■	M	I	M	E
A	N	A	■	A	L	D	A	S	■	O	I	L
_	O	F	T	■	S	U	D	D	E	N	_	Y
■	■	F	E	M	■	E	G	A	L	■	■	■
A	T	O	N	E	D	■	E	K	E	S	B	Y
B	U	D	D	H	I	S	T	■	V	E	R	A
O	B	I	E	■	N	O	R	■	E	L	A	L
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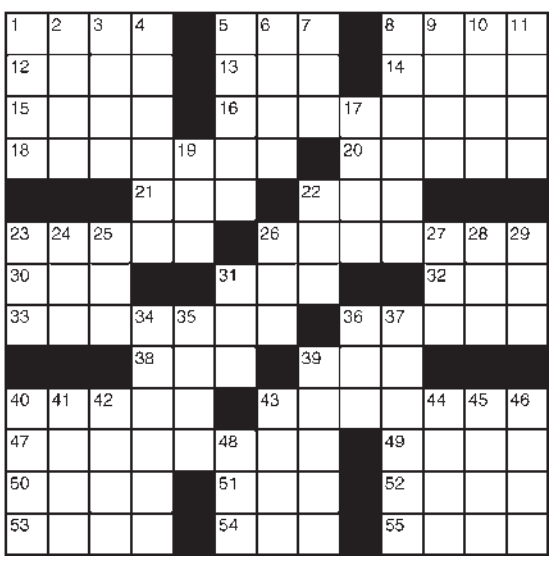
Yesterday's answer 5-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey Logano, 26; Mark Ballas, 30; John C. Reilly, 51; Bob Dylan, 75.

Happy Birthday: Strive to be your best and you will get the most in return. Discipline can help ward off temptation. Try to make responsible rather than reckless choices. Look for solid ideas and plans, and don't leave any details undone. Put your energy into personal and professional projects. It's up to you to go after your goals. Your numbers are 3, 11, 23, 28, 31, 38, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't be too quick to share information. Someone will use emotional maneuvers to convince you to make an impulsive move. Concentrate on money, contracts, legal matters and your health. Don't let anyone distract you. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Visiting a place you've never been or discussing possibilities with experienced people will add to your range of knowledge and encourage you to make a decision that will bring about personal changes. People from different backgrounds will influence you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take on a challenge that will help you maintain your strength or encourage physical fitness. Be passionate about whatever you decide to take on. Keeping busy will help you dismiss anyone who is trying to lead you down a questionable path. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): By offering to help others you will also be able to open a window of opportunity through the connections you make. A worthwhile partnership is apparent, but don't expect it to be an ordinary venture. Embrace what interests you the most. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your adaptable attitude will help you adjust to whatever situation you encounter. When one door closes, another will open. Your quick response will leave any challenger far behind. A celebration with someone you love will improve your personal situation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get out and mingle or attend an event that offers the information you need to start something new. Don't let anyone at work or at home put unrealistic demands on you or make you feel guilty for looking out for your own best interests. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look into alternative beliefs or making personal changes. The people you encounter will recognize your talents and be intrigued by your accomplishments and your intended goals. A personal gain is heading your way. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Joint ventures will not turn out to be in your best interests. Don't be afraid to head in your own direction. Trust in your ideas and believe in your capabilities. Desire and determination will help you overcome any challenges you encounter. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone will twist your words or give you false information that will send you in the wrong direction if you aren't careful. If you are going to undergo a change, stay in control and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let your emotions take over. Gather all the facts and present an idea that will be difficult to ignore. Working well with others will enable you to delegate jobs so you can focus on what's important. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look at your background and the experiences you have gained over the years and consider what you have enjoyed doing most. Someone you have worked with in the past will help you make a professional decision and change. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Express your opinions and you will attract people who think the same way as you. Join forces with those who are willing to support your efforts, and stand up to those who don't. Avoid situations that could lead to problems with authority figures. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, brave and innovative. You are curious and energetic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				
		2	6			3		
	3			9	5		1	
		3	5		8		2	
5		6				7		1
	1		4		7	8		
	9		7	5			3	
		8			1	9		
				2				

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	8	5	9	1	6	7	3
9	6	1	4	3	7	5	2	8
3	7	5	6	2	8	1	9	4
5	1	2	7	4	6	3	8	9
4	8	9	2	5	3	7	1	6
7	3	6	8	1	9	2	4	5
8	5	3	1	7	4	9	6	2
1	9	4	3	6	2	8	5	7
6	2	7	9	8	5	4	3	1

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BASSET HOUNDS Solution: 11 letters

D	I	S	C	E	N	T	T	R	A	I	L	R	S	F
E	N	T	U	R	W	H	I	T	E	S	S	O	O	R
R	D	U	F	O	E	H	M	A	R	K	C	L	C	I
I	O	R	O	A	I	N	E	I	A	N	L	O	I	E
A	O	D	V	H	M	C	T	L	H	O	U	C	A	N
H	R	Y	P	O	S	E	A	R	W	M	B	I	L	D
T	Y	B	F	L	S	T	R	N	A	R	T	B	L	L
R	L	F	L	N	A	H	R	S	E	P	U	P	P	Y
O	I	E	E	A	O	Y	A	E	F	T	R	A	C	K
H	M	S	W	M	C	M	F	R	B	R	E	E	D	C
S	A	A	S	G	A	K	E	U	P	U	A	A	E	A
T	F	G	Y	L	O	L	G	L	L	E	H	N	R	P
N	I	A	R	T	O	D	E	W	L	A	P	T	C	S
U	C	O	M	P	A	N	I	O	N	A	T	D	S	E
H	E	L	T	N	E	G	G	N	I	O	G	T	U	O

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Bicolor, Black, Breed, Club, Companion, Dewlap, Dog, Ears, Famers, Family, Female, Flews, Follow, France, Friendly, Gentle, Hare, Heavy, Hound, Hunt, Indoor, Lemon, Long, Maytag, Monks, Outgoing, Pack, Partner, Playful, Puppy, Scent, Sense, Sharp, Shorthaired, Smell, Social, St. Hubert's, Sturdy, Tail, Tan, Tenacious, Time, Track, Trail, Train, White

Yesterday's Answer: Beautiful

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of:	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0212
Chelsy Ann Palacios Reyes Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: James Pangelinan Reyes Mary Anne Palacios Reyes Petitioner(s)	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 6th day of June, 2016 at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 205A before the Honorable Judge.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2016.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

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Thunder blow out Warriors in Game 3 to regain lead

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) is guarded by Golden State Warriors forward Harrison Barnes (40) and guard Stephen Curry (30) during the first quarter in Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Oklahoma City, Sunday, May 22, 2016.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)— Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and the Thunder gave the Warriors as complete a beating as they experienced during their record-setting season.

Suddenly, a second straight title seems to be anything but a given for Golden State. Now the Warriors are just trying to survive.

Durant scored 33 points, Westbrook had 30 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds, and Oklahoma City rolled to a 133-105 victory on Sunday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The Warriors, who set an NBA record with 73 victories in the regular season, trailed by 41 points, their largest deficit this season.

"We got what we deserved," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

Durant made 10 of 15 shots and Westbrook was 10 of 19. It was the first time this postseason both players shot better than 50 percent from the field.

"We're not going to win that way," Golden State guard Klay Thompson said. "One of those guys got to have an off night."

Serge Ibaka added 14 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who matched a franchise record for most points scored in a playoff game.

Oklahoma City outrebounded the Warriors in its Game 1 victory, but the Warriors won the battle of the boards in Game 2 and beat the Thunder 118-91. Oklahoma City reasserted its dominance on the glass on Sunday, outrebounding Golden State 52-38.

Westbrook said the Thunder also needed to make the hustle plays that add to the rebounding totals.

"That's one thing we slipped up on in Game 2, and I think tonight, we did a good job of getting loose balls and finding ways to get 50/50 basketballs and give ourselves extra possessions," he said.

Golden State will be in an uncomfortable position heading into Game 4 on Tuesday in Oklahoma City, but the Warriors remain confident. Golden State trailed Memphis and Cleveland 2-1 in playoff series last year and won both on its way to claiming the NBA title.

"Both times, we got blown out in Game 3, and we responded well, so we have that memory," Kerr said. "I'm confident we're going to come out and play a really good game in Game 4, and we'll see what happens."

The last time Golden State's Stephen Curry had played in Oklahoma City, he scored 46 points, tied an NBA record with 12 3-pointers and hit a game-winning, 37-footer. This time, the league MVP finished with 24 points on 7-for-17 shooting. Klay Thompson added 18 points on 8-for-19 shooting.

Golden State's Draymond Green, who kicked Oklahoma City's Steven Adams in the groin and has become Thunder fans' No. 1 target because of some questionable tactics, struggled on both ends of the floor and finished with six points on 1-for-9 shooting. The Warriors were outscored by 43 points when he was in the game.

With 5:57 left in the second quarter, Green kicked Adams after a foul. It was the second time in the series Green hit Adams there - he hit him with a knee in Game 2. The crowd chanted "Kick him out! Kick him out!" but Green was issued a flagrant 1 foul and remained in the game.

Green said he wasn't trying to hurt Adams.

"I thought it would probably get rescinded," he said. "I followed through on a shot. I'm not trying to kick somebody in the midsection. Somebody wants to have kids someday. I'm not trying to end that on the basketball court."

Seemingly energized after Green's foul, the Thunder outscored the Warriors 24-7 the rest of the half, with many of the baskets coming against Green. In a play that summarized the second quarter perfectly, Green went in for a layup and got it blocked by Durant, then Durant made a 3-pointer on the other end to give the Thunder a 64-47 lead.

Green fouled Westbrook on a long 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left in the first half. Westbrook made all three free throws to put the Thunder up 72-47 at the break. Durant had 23 points on 6-for-10 shooting and 10 of 10 free throws in the first half, and Westbrook had 16 points, seven assists and six rebounds at the break. It was the most points scored against the Warriors in any half this season.

Curry shot 4 for 13 in the first half, Thompson went 5 for 14 and Green 1 for 8.

The Thunder continued the onslaught by making 17 of 22 shots in the third quarter to take a 117-80 lead into the fourth.

The Warriors have left Thunder guard Andre Roberson open to focus on other players, and Roberson finally made the Warriors pay by scoring 13 points. He made 5 of 9 shots, including 3 of 5 pointers.

The Warriors had just one offensive rebound in the first quarter and 10 in the game. They made just 6 of 23 3-pointers in the first half and 10 of 33 overall and never led by more than two points. It was the first time since 1991 that multiple players scored at least 30 points against the Warriors in a playoff game.

The Thunder outrebounded the Warriors 33-19 in the first half and shot 52.3 percent in the first half and 50 percent overall. They outscored the Warriors 33-19 at the free-throw line and Dion Waiters made 13 points and Enes Kanter added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Physical intensity picks up between Cavaliers and Raptors

TORONTO (AP)—DeMar DeRozan remembers the angry emotions Raptors teammate Bismack Biyombo once stirred in him as an opponent.

"I hated him," DeRozan said Sunday.

The Cavaliers likely feel a little anger toward Biyombo after his pivotal performance Saturday, when he helped stop Cleveland's 10-0 start to the playoffs in Toronto's 99-84 victory in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals. Game 4 is Monday night at Air Canada Centre.

Biyombo hauled down a Raptors' playoff-record 26 rebounds, blocked four shots, and scored six of his seven points in a quick fourth-quarter spurt that helped seal Toronto's win.

That wasn't all. Biyombo was involved in a first-half skirmish that saw LeBron James take a tumble after catching an accidental elbow from his own teammate, Tristan Thompson. Late in the fourth, Biyombo drew a flagrant foul after he collared a driving James, sending the Cavs' star sprawling again.

DeRozan hasn't forgotten what all that feels like.

"I hated Biz," Toronto's All-Star guard said. "He was a fouler, always blocking shots. He always went for the pump fake, though, but I hated Biz. Now by far he's one of my favorite teammates of all-time."

Raptors coach Dwane Casey understands Biyombo can be both a "nightmare" and a "nuisance" to play against, whether it's the center's habit of finger-wagging after blocks, or flexing his muscles after big dunks.

To Biyombo, being a nuisance is no big deal. It's the way it's got to be.

"Until you really get to know the real side of me, then you know who I am," he said. "But on the floor I don't have friends."

At the final buzzer Saturday, Biyombo lay crumpled in pain in Cleveland's paint after being struck below the belt while battling Dahntay Jones for a loose ball. Biyombo took the hit while tapping the ball to a teammate, his eighth offensive rebound of the night.

Casey was upset at the referees after the game, complaining that Biyombo wasn't getting calls and citing Cleveland's 86-51 edge in free throw attempts in the series. On Sunday, Casey declined to say whether those comments had drawn league discipline.

"I'm not trying to get anybody," Casey said. "It's over with. I said what I had to say last night. I'm not trying to send a message. It was a comment about the game last night and it's over with."

Jones was suspended for Game 4 by the NBA on Sunday, while Casey was fined $25,000 for his comments.

After a testy, physical Game 3, the Cavaliers were also wondering whether they were getting a fair shake from the referees. Asked whether James and the Cavs had to sell calls, coach Tyronn Lue said it's tough for his star because defenders "tend to bounce off" a driving James.

"If you don't foul him hard, he's going to get an and-one and a three-point play," Lue said. "You've got to try to be physical with him so he can't take the contact and finish at the rim. When you get around the neck, like Biyombo did last night, that's different. But when teams hard-foul, you're supposed to get hard-fouled when you're going to the basket, especially being that strong and that powerful."

Speaking before the Cavs held a film session at their Toronto hotel Sunday, James didn't want to say whether he's getting the whistles he deserves.

"I really don't get involved in it too much," James said. "I just play the game and let the referees decide what the call may be and move on. I can't have my focus go somewhere else. That allows my energy to be somewhere it shouldn't be."

With Cleveland's run over, Richard Jefferson said the mood was a little down when several Cavs gathered for a postgame meal Saturday night.

"That's the first time in a month the dinner conversation wasn't joyous and excited and having fun," Jefferson said. "We were just kind of talking about the things that we needed to do. We were trying to keep our minds off of it, but you could see that everybody was a little off."

Shooting-wise, Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving were more than a little off in Game 3, going a combined 4 for 28. Lue said Irving, who got the worst of a collision with Toronto's Cory Joseph late in Saturday's game, was feeling fine after having the wind knocked out of him.

Toronto's Jonas Valanciunas, out since Game 3 of the Miami series after spraining his right ankle, is listed as doubtful for Game 4. Valanciunas is progressing slowly and will be re-evaluated Monday, Casey said.

Bumgarner throws gem in Giants win over Cubs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Madison Bumgarner pitched 7 2/3 dominant innings and doubled in a run in the fifth to lift the San Francisco Giants over the Chicago Cubs 1-0 on Sunday night.

The Giants won for the 11th time in 12 games and took two of three from a Cubs team with the best record in baseball.

Bumgarner (6-2) struck out six and allowed three hits and two walks while winning his fifth straight decision. The Giants have won each of the lefthander's last six starts.

The Giants won despite a persistent problem hitting with runners in scoring position. They were 0 for 7 in that department and have 16 hits in their last 98 at-bats with runners in scoring position.

Bumgarner's run-scoring double to left off Kyle Hendricks (2-4) followed Gregor Blanco's leadoff walk.

Giants closer Santiago Casilla pitched a scoreless ninth for his 12th save.

AP

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Madison Bumgarner throws to the Chicago Cubs during the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 22, 2016, in San Francisco.

Dodgers 9, Padres 5, 17 innings

In San Diego, Yasiel Puig hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with the bases loaded and one out in the 17th inning and Los Angeles beat San Diego to snap a four-game losing streak.

The game started in afternoon sunshine and ended at dusk, taking 5 hours, 47 minutes.

The Dodgers started the four-run rally off rookie Luis Perdomo when Howie Kendrick hit a leadoff double that bounced over the wall in right-center field. Adrian Gonzalez was intentionally walked and reliever Ross Stripling advanced them with a groundout.

Red Sox 5, Indians 2

In Boston, David Ortiz went 4 for 4 with a solo home run and a double that sent a fan flying, Jackie Bradley Jr. extended his hitting streak to 27 games and Boston beat Cleveland for its 10th win in 14 games.

Bradley singled in the fifth inning and has the longest hitting streak in the majors since a 28-gamer by Colorado's Nolan Arenado in 2014.

Ortiz drove in three runs. His RBI double in the second put the Red Sox ahead 3-2, and when the ball bounced over Boston's bullpen, a fan came charging from his seat and fell into a fence trying to retrieve the souvenir.

Tigers 9, Rays 4

In Detroit, Jordan Zimmermann (7-2) left with a strained right groin after allowing two runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez homered for Detroit, which has won six of seven. Cabrera also left early. with a left knee bruise after being hit by a pitch in the seventh.

Chris Archer (3-5) gave up six runs and eight hits in three innings.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Jose Bautista and Josh Donaldson started the game with back-to-back home runs in a three-run first inning against Phil Hughes (1-7), who leads in the major leagues in losses.

Marcus Stroman (5-1) allowed one run and three hits in 7 2/3 innings, one start after giving up career-highs of seven runs and 13 hits in a loss to Tampa Bay. Roberto Osuna got four straight outs for his ninth save.

Mets 3, Brewers 1

In New York, Noah Syndergaard (5-2) struck out 11 in seven overpowering innings, allowing an unearned run and six hits.

Michael Conforto homered in the third off Chase Anderson (2-6) as New York completed a three-game sweep.

Asdrubal Cabrera broke a fourth-inning tie with a two-run single that sent the Mets to their 12th victory in the last 16 home games.

Nationals 8, Marlins 2

In Miami, Max Scherzer (5-3) struck out eight while giving up two runs and six hits in eight innings with no walks. He has 38 strikeouts in his past three starts, including a record-tying 20 against Detroit.

Justin Bour ended Scherzer's shutout bid with a two-run homer in the seventh.

Washington won the three-game series and took a 7-6 edge in the season series. The NL East foes don't meet again until Sept. 19.

Mariners 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Leonys Martin got four hits, Robinson Cano drove in two runs and Seattle completed a three-game sweep that extended Cincinnati's losing streak to seven.

Wade Miley (5-2) shook off a rocky first to allowed four runs and eight hits in six innings. He is 5-0 over his last six starts, all Seattle victories. Steve Cishek pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save.

Phillies 5, Braves 0

In Philadelphia, Jerad Eickhoff (2-6) pitched five-hit ball over seven innings for his first win since April 13, and Philadelphia avoided a three-game sweep. He had lost his previous five decisions.

Cameron Rupp homered for the Phillies, and Maikel Franco had two RBI.

Casey Kelly (0-1) allowed three runs over five innings in his first start this season for Atlanta, an NL-worst 12-31.

White Sox 3, Royals 2

In Chicago, Todd Frazier tied for the AL lead with his 13th home run, Melky Cabrera drove in two runs and Chicago avoided what would have been the first sweep against the White Sox this season.

Carlos Rodon (2-4) allowed two runs and eight hits in six-plus innings for his first victory since April 13. David Robertson got three outs for his 11th save, helping the AL Central leaders win for just the third time in 11 games.

Rangers 9, Astros 2

In Houston, Cole Hamels (5-0) won his career-best 12th straight decision. He fanned a season-high 11 in eight innings, allowing two runs — one earned—and five hits as the Rangers completed a three-game sweep.

Texas has won six straight from Houston and 14 of 16. The Astros have lost four straight overall.

Diamondbacks 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Zack Greinke (5-3) won for the fifth time in six starts, allowing one run and five hits in eight innings.

Paul Goldschmidt drove in a pair of runs and Michael Bourn had three hits as Arizona won a series in St. Louis for the first time since April 18-20, 2003.

Angels 10, Orioles 2

In Anaheim, Jered Weaver (4-3) took a shutout into the seventh inning to win for the first time since April 26, and Carlos Perez homered, had three hits and drove in a career-high five runs.

Weaver allowed five hits in seven innings and struck out a season-high six, giving up Jonathan Schoop's two-run homer in the seventh.

Yankees 5, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Michael Pineda (2-5) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings to win for the first time since his opening start this season, Starlin Castro hit a tiebreaking, two-out single in the sixth off Jesse Hahn (1-2) and New York extended a winning streak to five for the first time since winning seven straight from last June 1-9.

Brian McCann and Jacoby Ellsbury homered for the Yankees (21-22), who swept the four-game series.

Garcia beats Koepka with par on first playoff hole at Nelson

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Sergio Garcia made a par on the first playoff hole at the Byron Nelson on Sunday to beat Brooks Koepka for his ninth career PGA Tour victory, matching the late Seve Ballesteros for the most by a Spanish-born player.

The 36-year-old Garcia shot a 2-under 68, making six birdies and four bogeys, to get to 15-under 265. He was two groups ahead of the final pairing of hometown favorite Jordan Spieth and Koepka, who bogeyed the 14th and 15th holes and just missed a birdie chance at 18.

When they went back to 413-yard 18th again for the playoff, Koepka went first and drove into the water before taking his drop and leaving his approach short of the green. Garcia hit a drive of more than 300 yards and followed with a wedge to about 17 feet.

Garcia also won the 2004 Nelson and is the first two-time winner in the 34 tournaments since the event moved to TPC Four Seasons in 1983.

Koepka closed with a 71.

Matt Kuchar was a stroke out of the playoff at 14 under after a 65.

Spieth, the world's No. 2-ranked player, had two bogeys in his first five holes Sunday and went on to shoot 74. He finished tied for 18th at 10 under.

Koepka, who opened the final round leading by two strokes over Spieth, was at 17 under before the back-to-back bogeys that dropped him even with Garcia. Koepka hit each of his first two shots into the rough at both the 14th and 15th holes.

Then after his drive at No. 18 went into the right rough, Koepka still had a chance to win without a playoff when he made a nice shot to the green. But his 16-foot birdie chance curled just under the cup.

Garcia was 15 under for the third time in his final round when he made a short birdie putt after a nice chip shot at the par-5 16th. He had a pair of 12-foot birdie chances after that, but the ball stopped short at the par-3 17th and curled around the cup at No. 18.

In his 301st PGA Tour start, Garcia improved to 5-6 in playoffs and got a check for $1,314,000. Koepka was in his first playoff in his 55th tournament, a year after his only victory in Phoenix Open.

Spieth first played in the Byron Nelson as a 16-year-old six years ago, and the Dallas native missed his high school graduation ceremony the following year after again making the cut there as an amateur.

Six weeks after his misery at the Masters, and a week after missing the cut at The Players Championship in his only other tournament since that blown five-stroke lead on the back nine when trying to win at Augusta for the second year in a row, Spieth was pretty much out of contention at home after his two early bogeys.

That came on the same day that third-ranked Rory McIlroy won the Irish Open, his home tournament where he had struggled over the years.

Island-wide caging playoff round starts tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The playoff games in the 2016 Island-wide Men's Basketball League will begin tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first match at 6:30pm, the Ol'Aces will take on the NMI Rollers, while in the second game, the Ballers will face Kagman Rizers. The Ol'Aces topped the round-robin regular season in the 10-team league with their perfect 9-0 record, while the NMI Rollers were ranked at No. 8 with their 4-5 mark to catch the last bus to the playoffs. Run 'N Gun (1-8) and Best Sunshine International (0-9) were eliminated.

The NMI Rollers tied Kagman Rizers for the seventh to eighth place in the team standings, but the latter was seeded ahead of the latter after winning their lone meeting in the regular season. The Ballers were also in a deadlock for second to third place with the Blue Haus as the two teams hold identical 6-3 records, but the former prevailed in the tiebreak due to the win over the other rule.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces' Kobee Mendoza, right, guards BSI's Chris Esteves during a regular season game in the island-wide caging, which will start its playoff round tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, the other pairings in the first round of the playoffs, which has a single-elimination format, are Blue Haus versus CES Electronics and Runnin' Rebels over the 670 Sonics. Their win-or-go-home games will be played this Thursday with the Blue Haus-CES tiff set for 6:30pm and the Runnin' Rebels-670 Sonics duel scheduled for 8pm.

The Runnin' Rebels, 670 Sonics , and CES ended the regular season with similar 5-4 marks, but the former won the tiebreak to place at No. 4. The Sonics and CES dropped to fifth and sixth, respectively.

The single-elimination playoffs will continue on May 31 with winners in Games 2 and 3 colliding in the first semis match at 6:30pm and the victors in Games 1 and 4 meeting in the other Final Four showdown at 8pm.

Survivors of the May 31 games will square off in a best-of-three title series that will begin on June 2. Game 2 is set for June 4, while Game 3, if necessary, is slated on June 7.

Arriola has goal, assist in US debut, 3-1 win at Puerto Rico

BAYAMON, Puerto Rico (AP)—Paul Arriola not only was able to make his national team debut for the United States on Sunday, he became the first player since Landon Donovan in 2000 to score a goal and have an assist in his initial appearance.

"I thought today that I made the most of my chance," he said after the 3-1 exhibition victory over Puerto Rico, the first of three matches for the team ahead of next month's Copa America.

Tim Ream and Bobby Wood also scored for the U.S., which dominated possession.

A 21-year-old from Chula Vista, California, who plays for Tijuana in Mexico, Arriola is not on the tournament roster but was among seven additional players called in for a training camp while regulars remained with the Major League Soccer teams through the weekend. He became the first player to score in his debut since Juan Agudelo at South Africa in November 2010.

"He did well, and he knows he has a huge learning curve still ahead of him," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said.

Ream, cut from the Copa roster, put the U.S. ahead in the 20th minute with his first international goal. Arriola fed Wood in the 34th for a 2-0 lead, Wood's fifth goal in 18 national team games.

Luis Betancur cut Puerto Rico's deficit in the 42nd against Brad Guzan, designated the first-choice goalkeeper by Klinsmann on Saturday. Arriola restored the two-goal lead in the 56th. Michael Orozco made a 30-yard pass from just past the midfield stripe that Bedoya ran onto before dribbling toward the end line and crossing. Arriola tapped the pass into an open goal with his left foot from 2 yards.

"I'm usually the guy getting down the line and sending the crosses in," Arriola said. "And today fortunately I was able to be on the end of one, which in my club career hardly ever happens."

Bedoya, who captained the U.S. for the first time, appeared to off in the 63rd minute with a sore right ankle, but the team said after the game he was not hurt.

The U.S., tied for 29th in the FIFA rankings, had an 11-5 advantage in shots in its first game against Puerto Rico, which is tied for 152nd.

Among the starters, only Guzan, right back DeAndre Yedlin, central defender John Brooks and Bedoya appear to have a the best chance to be in the lineup against Colombia in the Copa America opener on June 3. Orozco was paired with Brooks in central defense, and Ream started at left back.

Defenders Fabian Johnson and Geoff Cameron, both rehabbing leg injuries, remained in the continental U.S. and will rejoin the team on Monday in Texas ahead of Wednesday's exhibition against Ecuador in Frisco. The U.S. also plays Bolivia on Saturday at Kansas City, Kansas.

The U.S. Soccer Federation went ahead with this game despite concern about the Zika virus, which led Major League Baseball to shift a two-game series between the Marlins and Pittsburgh Pirates from Puerto Rico back to Miami.

On an afternoon with 88-degree heat and 58 percent humidity at kickoff, Ream scored his first goal in 21 international appearances. After Alfredo Morales' 30-yard effort was parried by Matthew Sanchez, Ream drove in the rebound with a left-footed shot from a sharp angle outside the 6-yard box.

Wood doubled the lead when, with two Puerto Rican players down on the field, he ran onto a pass from Arriola. Wood took a pair of touches as he went around Emmanuel D'Andrea and lifted the ball over Sanchez from 7 yards. Fans booed the U.S. for not kicking the ball out of play.

SCHOOLS

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tion, but his father and Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong was present to accept her girls U18 trophy. Sapong scored the most points in the entire tournament held last May 4 to 7 at the Hopwood field after collecting 76. She ruled the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m runs and was second in the discus and javelin throws.

The MHS student shared the division top honors with Hofschneider, who came all the away from Tinian to receive his award. The Tinian Junior and Senior High School student prevailed in the discus and shot put throws and was runner-up in the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs to gain 62 points.

In the U15 age group, Babauta and Pangelinan tallied 56 and 44 markers, respectively to win their division. Babauta finished first in the 200m and 400m runs and second in the 60m and 100m races, while Pangelinan won the 60m and 200m and was runner-up in the 100m and 400m.

Millare duplicated Babauta's total points to gain the award in the girls U13 division, while Miyawaki claimed the boys plum after earning 42. The Hopwood student swept the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m runs and was third in the 800m event. Miyawaki ruled the 400m and 3,00m runs and finished second and third in the 800m and 1,500m races, respectively.

In the U11 age group. Cing got 38 points to clinch top honors in the boys division, while Courteney's 46 markers gave her the girls tiara. Courteney won the 800m and 1,500m runs and placed second in the 400m and 200m events. Cing, on the other hand, topped the 100m and 200m runs and was runner-up in the softball throw.

In the U9 division, Koblerville had a sweep after Defang and Walter tallied 50 and 46 points, respectively. They recorded first place finish in the 60m, 100m, and 200m and Defang added a second place finish in the 400m to his list, while Walter was ranked third in the softball throw.

Karki was also at third place in the softball throw and earned first and second finishes in the 800m and 1,500m runs, respectively, to get the girls U7 trophy after collecting 46 points.

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In the boys finale, Hopwood made sure San Antonio will not make it two in a row against the Hilitai, as the eventual champion controlled the game right at the get-go.

J.P. Cruz anchored the title win, firing a game-high 18 points, including 8 straight markers and back-to-back triples in the closing minutes of the match. He nailed 14 of his total production in the second half to give Hopwood the double-digit winning margin.

Cruz also drew enough support from his teammates, as six other Hopwood players contributed at least 4 points each. Hopwood's balance scoring and Cruz's timely baskets in the second half spoiled the solid game of Rikko Saralu for San Antonio. Saralu had a team-high 16 markers, including San Antonio's last 6 points.

Saralu also had a string of 6 markers in the first half to keep San Antonio in the game, as Hopwood ended halftime holding only a 5-point cushion, 24-19. However, the Zachariah Johnson-coached Hopwood pushed the tempo of the game in the second half and Cruz began hitting his target to gain a sizeable lead en route to their title win.

Hopwood 1 53 — Cruz 18, Reyes 6, Bravo 5, Favor 5, Elchico 5, Abejo 4, Bayot 4, De Leon 3, Cadag 2.

San Antonio 42— Saralu 16, John 14, Deleon Guerrero 4, Lizama 2, Ngeskebei 2, Maras 2.

FALCONS'

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the MVP award, as he was also named as RBI, home run, and ERA champion. He edged IT&E Regulators' Patrick Celis and the Comets' Bing Nakamura, who also gained multiple awards in last weekend's trophy presentation. Kapileo had 25 RBIs in the 12-game elimination, posted an 0.42 ERA as he pitched 28 innings and allowed only two earned runs, and scored three home runs.

Nakamura also got three homers to share the home run top honors with Kapileo and added the runs champ trophy to his collection. Nakamura collected 26 runs in the Comets regular-season sweep. The Comets pitcher was also the Finals MVP after lifting the Comets to a 12-2 title win over the Little Legals last Sunday.

Meanwhile, Celis brought home three awards—the doubles and triples champ trophies, and batting champ plum. He went 24-for-36 in the regular season for a batting average of .666 and then tied Delbert Sablan of the Little Legals for the most doubles (9). Celis was also in a deadlock for the most triples (3) with three other players—the As Matuis Twins' Eliray Castro, the NSA Braves' Tristan Norita, and the Falcons' Jonathan Renguul.

In the most strikeouts contest, the Docomo Ol'Aces' Ken Kaipat was alone at the top spot with his 79 Ks.

Besides the individual trophies, SLLB officials, Best Sunshine International's CHR director Geri Dela Cruz, and Reps. J.P. Sablan and Angel Demapan also presented team awards. The Pirates were given the Sportsmanship Award, while the Comets took the pennant trophy. The Little Legals and Falcons received the runner-up and third place trophies.

SBA holds awards banquet for winter-spring '16 season

PHOTOS and TEXT By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Billiards Association held its awards banquet last Sunday at Pacific Island Club's Charley's Cabaret, honoring teams that excelled in the last winter-spring 2016 season of the Thursday and Tuesday leagues.

Five Jokers Bar & Grill-sponsored teams led the Top 3 finishers in both leagues with the Homeboyz taking the Thursday title and the IT&E Voyagers claiming the Tuesday crown. The Wild Bill's Wild Wild West broke the monopoly after coming in at second in the Thursday division.

The Docomo Hustlers duplicated the Wild Bill's crew's runner-up finish in the Tuesday league. Jokers completed its domination with National Alamo Car Rental and Destroyers bagging third place honors each in the Thursday and Tuesday leagues.

Alamo and the Jokers StraightBlackBall continued Jokers' success after being crowned the Budweiser Cup champion in the Thursday and Tuesday leagues, respectively.

Jonny's Bar-backed squads Team SCS and Titans earned the Sportsmanship awards in both leagues, which celebrated its 21st year. Both leagues have two seasons every year.

Meanwhile, sign up is ongoing for the upcoming Summer-Fall season set to start in July. Doro's and The Warehouse are the new bars that will sponsor teams in the coming season.

Jonny's Team SCS players receive the Thursday League Sportsmanship award.

Team National Alamo Car Rental players get the Budweiser Cup Thursday league championship trophy.

The Jokers StraightBlackBall players are the recipients of the Tuesday league's Budweser Cup trophies.

Alamo players pose with their third place trophy in the regular season of the Winter-Spring Open 8-Ball League.

The Destoyers show their third place trophies.

The Docomo Hustlers show their Tuesday league runners-up trophies.

Homeboyz members celebrate their victory in the regular season of the Thursday league.

IT&E Voyagers captain Rolly Villanueva, fourth left, joins his teammates for a group photo.

Thunder blow out Warriors in Game 3 to regain lead

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bumgarner throws gem in Giants win over Cubs

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Hopwood, San Antonio split titles

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Hopwood Junior High School 1 player goes up for an uncontested layup during their title game against San Antonio Middle School in the 2016 PSS Middle School Basketball Tournament last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School 1 outclassed San Antonio Middle School, 53-42, in the boys finale of the 2016 PSS Middle School Basketball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hopwood 1's title win in last Sunday's game foiled San Antonio's bid for a sweep in the competition. Earlier in the first game, San Antonio's girls squad downed Hopwood, 21-13, in the winner-take-all match.

Cassandra Camacho, daughter of veteran CNMI player Peter Camacho, scored 6 points in the finale and teamed up with Sylvina Simran in stunning the favored Hopwood, which incidentally was coached by the former's aunt—Connie Camacho. Simran matched Camacho's production, while Terri Borja chipped in 4. Kaitlin and Kristine Borja were the other scorers for Hopwood, combining for 5.

Camacho dropped all her points in the homestretch to hand Hopwood its lone loss in the tournament.

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All Schools top performers recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twelve student-athletes were named top performers in their respective age group competitions in the 2016 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships in a brief awards ceremony last Friday at McDonald's Middle Road.

All Schools meet first-timer Moshe Sikkel led the individual awardees as he reigned supreme in the boys U7 division. The Brilliant Star student collected 54 points for placing first in the 60m, 200m, 400m, and 800m races, second in the 100m run, and third in the softball throw. Sikkel got the most points in the elementary division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The top student-athletes in the 2016 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships are joined by McDonald's Joe Ayuyu Jr. , left back row, and Marcia Ayuyu, fourth right, for a group photo during the awards ceremony last Friday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Sikkel and the 11 other top student-athletes received trophies presented by McDonald's Saipan owner and operator Marcia Ayuyu and store manager Joe Ayuyu Jr.

"We congratulate all the winners for a job well done. I know they've been practicing hard for weeks or months for the tournament and now they were rewarded for their efforts. They came out the best among the best," Joe Ayuyu Jr. said.

"I hope they will continue to train and join the tournament, as we at McDonald's at this early vow to keep supporting the All Schools meet as our way of giving back to the community and encouraging our kids to stay active through sports," Marcia Ayuyu added.

Joining Sikkel on the awardees list were William S. Reyes Elementary School's Kiyana Karki, Koblerville's Skymark Defang and Becky Walter, Tinian's Devin Cing and Zachariah Hofschneider, Whispering Palms' Ashley De Courteney, Saipan International School's Rintaro Miyawaki, Hopwood Junior High School's Therize Millare and Terrence Babauta, Dandan Middle School's Jamie Pangelinan, and Marianas High School's Zarinae Sapong.

Sapong was at work and missed the awards presenta-

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Falcons' Kapileo gets Majors MVP award

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Falcons' Kyle Kapileo had his hands full during the awards ceremony for the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The pitcher hauled four trophies, including the coveted regular season most valuable player plum. Kapileo won the close battle for

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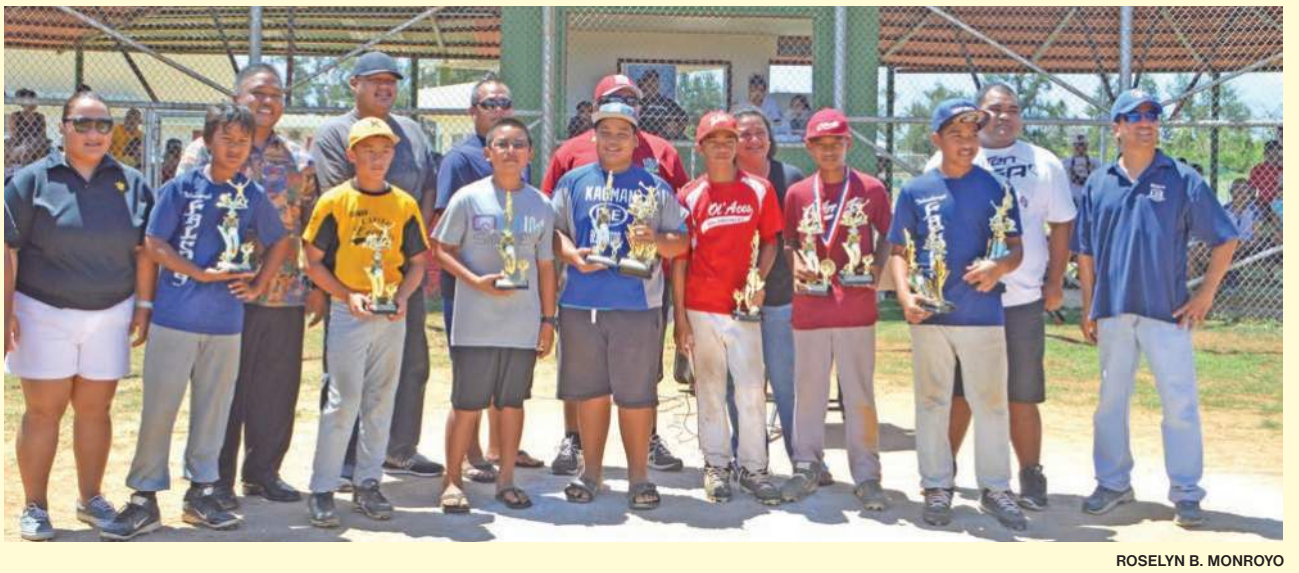

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Regular season MVP Kyle Kapileo, third right, joins other individual awardees, SLLB officials, and guests for a group photo during the awards presentation in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.